LONGMAN

Phrasal Verbs DICTIONARY

Over 5000 phrasal verbs

Longman

NEW

LONGMAN

Phrasal Verbs

DICTIONARY

LONGMAN

Phrasal Verbs

DICTIONARY

Longman

Pearson Education Limited
Edinburgh Gate
Harlow
Essex CM20 2JE
England
and Associated Companies throughout the World

Visit our website: http://www.longman.com/dictionaries

First published 2000
06 08 09 07 05

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloging in publication data
Longman phrasal verbs dictionary : over 5000 phrasal verbs.
p. cm.
1. English language–Verb phrase–Dictionaries. I. Title: Phrasal verbs dictionary. II. Longman (Firm : New York, N.Y.)

PE1319 .L66 2000
423'.1–dc21

ISBN
0 582 291836 (Cased edition)
0 582 291828 (Paperback edition)

Set in 8/8.3 Stempel Schneidler by Peter White & Peter Wray
Printed in China
PPLC/04

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Director
Della Summers

Editorial Director
Adam Gadsby

Publishers
Laurence Delacroix
Emma Campbell

Managing Editor
Chris Fox

Editors
Sheila Dignen
Ted Jackson
Jo Leigh
Evadne Adrian-Vallance

Lexicographers
Elaine Pollard
Korey Egge
Evadne Adrian-Vallance
Jo Leigh
Ted Jackson
Martin Stark

Production Manager
Clive McKeough

Project Manager
Alan Savill

Project Coordinator
Denise Denney

Editorial Manager
Sheila Dallas

Production Editor
Andrew Taylor

Design
Jenny Fleet

Keyboarder
Pauline Savill

Production Assistant
Susan Braund

Proofreaders
Alison Steadman
Gerard Delaney

Cover
Andrea Hoyle

We would like to acknowledge the development work done for this project by Robert Allen.

GUIDE TO USING THE DICTIONARY

BLURT
blurted, blurted, blurting

blurt out

blurt out *sth* **blurt** *sth* **out**

to suddenly say something, without thinking

MAIN VERB

FORMS OF THE VERB
Past tense, past participle, and present participle of main verb

PHRASAL VERB
Phrasal verbs are listed under main verbs in alphabetical order.

break into

1 **break into** *sth*

to get into a building or a vehicle illegally by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Someone broke into my car and stole the radio.* | *Thieves broke into the school and took a quantity of cash.*

FREQUENCY STAR
Commonly used phrasal verbs are marked with a star.

GRAMMAR PATTERNS
show whether the phrasal verb has an object, and where you put the object. The object is written as *'sth'* or *'sb'*.

LAND
landed, landed, landing

land in

land (*sb*) in trouble/jail/court etc

to get into a bad situation, or put someone in a bad situation: *I hope I haven't landed you in trouble with the boss.* | *Her husband had a violent temper, which often landed him in court.* | *Gasgoine landed in trouble after an all-night drinking session with his friends.*

FIXED PHRASE
Fixed phrases that contain a phrasal verb are shown in bold.

LIGHT
lit, lit, lighting
lighted, lighted, lighting

light on/upon

● **Light upon** is more formal than **light on** and is mostly used in writing.

light on/upon *sth* NOT PASSIVE

literary to suddenly notice or find something,

USAGE NOTE
This gives you extra information about when to use the phrasal verb.

GRAMMAR HELP
This tells you if the phrasal verb is used or not in the passive or progressive.

LABELS
Labels tell you if a verb is formal, informal, spoken, or literary English.

LIKEN
likened, likened, likening

liken to

liken *sth/sb* **to** *sth/sb*

BrE to describe something or someone as similar to another thing or person: *The newspapers likened the new hospital to a five-star hotel.* | *In the Christian religion, God is likened to a father.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **compare**

DEFINITION
Definitions are written using the 2000-word Longman defining vocabulary, which makes them clear and easy to use.

LABELS
Labels also tell you if a verb is only used in American English (*AmE*) or British English (*BrE*).

line up against

1 **line up against** *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

if people line up against someone or something, they all oppose that person or thing: *Democrats quickly lined up against the tax cuts.* | *My brothers were soon involved in the argument too, all of them lined up against me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **oppose**

● OPPOSITE: **line up behind**

EXAMPLES
Examples are chosen from the Longman Corpus of Spoken and Written English.

SIMILAR TO
references show verbs and phrasal verbs with similar meaning.

OPPOSITE
references show verbs and phrasal verbs with opposite meaning.

change over

1 **change over**

especially BrE to stop doing or using one system or thing, and to start doing or using a different one instead

+ to *Wheat was no longer profitable, and many farmers were forced to change over to dairy farming.*

change over from sth to sth *We changed over from gas to solar heating because it's cleaner and cheaper in the long term.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch over**

changeover N [C]
a change from one way of doing something to another: *The changeover from analogue to digital television should be complete by 2006.*

PREPOSITIONS
Prepositions used with the phrasal verb are shown in bold.

RELATED NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES
These are shown after the sense of the phrasal verb they refer to.

INTRODUCTION

1. What is a phrasal verb?

A phrasal verb is a verb that consists of two or three words. Most phrasal verbs consist of two words – the first word is a verb, and the second word is a particle. The particle is either an adverb or a preposition. Examples of common phrasal verbs include **get up**, **go off**, **turn on**, **make out**, and **deal with**. There are also some three-word phrasal verbs, for example **catch up with**, **look forward to**.

An important feature of phrasal verbs is that they are typically <u>idiomatic</u>. Therefore the whole meaning of a phrasal verb cannot be understood by simply putting together the meanings of its individual parts. For example, the meaning of **carry out** (=do) in the sentence *Scientists carried out an experiment* is not related to the normal meaning of 'carry' or the meaning of 'out'. Similarly, you could not guess the meaning of **pull up** (=stop) in the sentence *A car pulled up outside the house* from the separate meanings of 'pull' and 'up'. A phrasal verb such as **answer back** (=answer rudely) is related to the meaning of the verb 'answer', but this would not help you to guess the meaning of **answer back**.

Where a verb freely combines with an adverb or preposition to produce an ordinary meaning, this is NOT a phrasal verb. In sentences such as *The boy fell off his bike* and *We carried some chairs out into the garden,* 'fall off' and 'carry out' are not phrasal verbs.

2. Types of phrasal verb included in this dictionary

- idiomatic combinations of VERB + ADVERB/PREPOSITION of the type described above
- verbs that only exist in combination with a particular preposition or adverb, such as **rely on**, **amount to**, **gee up**; and also verbs that only produce a particular meaning when combined with a particular prepositon or adverb, such as **deal with**, **abide by**, **relate to**
- VERB + ADVERB combinations that mean almost the same as the verb itself: eg **eat up**, **hurry up**, **toil away**, where the adverb adds emphasis or an idea of completeness or continuity to the action of the verb
- phrasal verbs that always have 'it' as their object: eg **hit it off**, **jump to it**, **slug it out**
- reflexive phrasal verbs, where the object is always 'myself', 'yourself', 'itself' etc: eg pride yourself on, avail yourself of, lend itself to

NB Do not expect to find fixed idiomatic phrases such as 'step out of line' and 'eat your heart out' in this book. You can find them in the *Longman Idioms Dictionary.*

3. How do I find the phrasal verb I want in this dictionary?

First look for the main verb. Phrasal verbs are listed alphabetically according to their particles after each main verb. When you get to the phrasal verb you want, you will find that the senses of each phrasal verb are listed in order of frequency. This means that the commonest meanings are listed first. The commonest and most useful phrasal verb meanings have a ✦ next to them, so that you can see which are the most important ones to know.

For example, suppose you are looking for **get up,** meaning to 'get out of bed'. First look for the main verb GET. **Get up** is near the end of the phrasal verbs in GET, after phrasal verbs such as get about, get ahead, and get together.

You then need to look for which sense of **get up** you want. The sense of **get up** meaning to 'get out of bed' is the first sense given. This means that it is the most

frequently used sense – in this dictionary the senses of the phrasal verbs are listed in order of frequency, so the most frequent sense comes first.

4. Grammar information

The new *Longman Phrasal Verbs Dictionary* demonstrates clearly how phrasal verbs are used, with grammar patterns shown at each sense. These show whether a phrasal verb takes an object, where the object goes, and whether the object is human or non-human. Grammar patterns are also placed in order of frequency.

For example, at **turn on** (=make something start working), there are two grammar patterns:

turn on *sth* | **turn** *sth* **on**

These patterns show that the object can come either after the phrasal verb or between the verb and the particle.

NB The examples also show how this phrasal verb is used, and how the position of the object can vary – *I turned on the radio and listened to the 6 o'clock news.* | *Could you turn the oven on if you're going into the kitchen?* | *Marion walked over to the overhead projector and turned it on.*

At **nod off** (=start to go to sleep), there is only one grammar pattern:

nod off

This grammar pattern shows that the verb does not take an object. The examples also show this:

Old Tom had nodded off in front of the television. | *I missed the end of her lecture – I think I must have nodded off.*

At **join in** (=take part in an activity with other people) the grammar patterns are:

join in | **join in** *sth*

These grammar patterns show that **join in** can be used without an object, or with an object immediately after the phrasal verb. The examples also show this:

When we come to the chorus, I want everyone to join in. | *Politely, he joined in the laughter.*

At **talk into** (=persuade someone to do something, especially something they are unwilling to do), the following grammatical pattern is shown:

talk *sb* **into** *sth*

This shows that **talk into** must have two objects, the first is a person (*sb*), and the second is a thing (*sth*). The examples also show this:

I should never have let you talk me into this crazy scheme. | *"Why did you go with him?" "Well, he sort of talked me into it!"*

Separable phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs such as **turn on**, **put off**, and **rip off**, all of which can take an object in the middle of the phrasal verb or after the phrasal verb, are usually called 'separable' phrasal verbs. With separable phrasal verbs, the following rules apply:

If the object is a pronoun, such as 'it', 'her', 'them', 'me', 'you' etc, it must come between the verb and the adverb: eg **turn off** *If you're not listening to the radio, I'll turn it off.* (NOT *I'll turn off it.*)

If the object is a long phrase, it should come at the end, after the phrasal verb: eg **carry out** *The French carried out a series of six nuclear tests.*

5. Other useful information in this dictionary

Synonyms and opposites

A synonym is a word or phrase that has the same meaning as another word. If a phrasal verb has a synonym or a word that has almost the same meaning, this is shown at the end of that sense of the phrasal verb. The synonym can be a verb, a phrasal verb, or a verb phrase. The synonym(s) are introduced by the words 'SIMILAR TO'. Here are some examples:

At **put off** (=delay doing something until later, or arrange for something to happen at a later time)
SIMILAR TO: **postpone**

At **head for** (=go towards a place)
SIMILAR TO: **make for**

At **put on** (=make a light or machine start working)
SIMILAR TO: **switch on, turn on**

Opposites are shown as follows:
turn up (=increase the amount of sound, heat etc)
OPPOSITE: **turn down**

Information about whether or not a phrasal verb is passive

Phrasal verbs that are usually passive are marked 'USUALLY PASSIVE'. Phrasal verbs that are never used in the passive are marked 'NOT PASSIVE'. If a phrasal verb is only normally used in the passive, it is shown in its passive form in bold at the head of the entry. For example, at **be booked up** (=there are no more seats, rooms, places etc available – used in British English), only the form **be booked up** is shown.

Related nouns or adjectives

Nouns and adjectives which are related to a phrasal verb are shown after the meaning of the phrasal verb that they are derived from. For example, **blackout** (noun) appears after the phrasal verb **black out** (=suddenly become unconscious), and **made-up** (adjective) appears after the phrasal verb **make up** (=invent a story, name etc)

Labels

The following labels are used in this dictionary:

BrE	=	used in British English
AmE	=	used in American English
spoken	=	used mainly in spoken English
informal	=	used when speaking or writing to people that you know well
formal	=	used in speeches, in serious or official writing, but not in ordinary conversation
old-fashioned	=	used by people in the past, although you may sometimes hear it being used now
literary	=	used in literature but not in ordinary conversation
technical	=	used when talking or writing about specific technical subjects which are not familiar to most ordinary people
taboo	=	this expression is extremely rude and offensive and you should not use it

A

ABANDON

abandoned, abandoned, abandoning

abandon to

abandon yourself to *sth*

literary if you abandon yourself to something, especially a strong feeling, you let it have a very strong influence on your behaviour, and do not try to control yourself: *That night they abandoned themselves to passion.* | *As she danced, she abandoned herself to the sensuousness of the music.*

ABIDE

abided, abided, abiding

abide by

abide by *sth*

formal to obey or agree to accept a rule, law, agreement, or decision: *The President has to abide by the same rules and laws as everyone else.* | *Both countries have shown their willingness to abide by the peace agreement.* | *Tyson promised to abide by the terms and conditions of his release.*

* SIMILAR TO: **observe** *formal*, **stick to, keep to** *BrE*

ABOUND

abounded, abounded, abounding

abound with/in

abound with/in *sth*

literary or formal to contain a lot of something: *The rivers abounded with fish.* | *The Costa Azul abounds with bars, restaurants and nightclubs.* | *a densely forested area, abounding in wildlife*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

ABSORB

absorbed, absorbed, absorbing

absorbed in

be absorbed in *sth*

to be very interested in what you are doing, especially so that you do not pay attention to what is happening around you: *Natalie was sitting up in bed, absorbed in her book.* | *I was so absorbed in my work that I didn't notice the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be engrossed in**

ABSTAIN

abstained, abstained, abstaining

abstain from

abstain from *sth*

formal to not do something, especially something you want to do, usually because of health or religious reasons: *Women are usually advised to abstain from alcohol during the early stages of pregnancy.* | *Abstaining from sex is a sure way of avoiding this route of HIV infection.*

abstain from doing sth *For a whole month, Muslims abstain from eating and drinking during daylight hours.*

ACCEDE

acceded, acceded, acceding

accede to

1 **accede to pressure/sb's demands/ request/wishes etc**

formal to agree to do what someone demands or asks you to do, especially when you do not want to do it: *The King was forced to accede to pressure for major political reforms.* | *Prison authorities have so far refused to accede to any of the prisoners' demands.* | *If a doctor accedes to a patient's request to withdraw treatment, he or she may find himself in trouble with the law.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bow to**

2 **accede to** *sth*

formal to officially become the leader of a country and be in charge of the government

accede to power *General Abacha acceded to power after a military coup.*

accede to the throne (=become king or queen) *Queen Elizabeth acceded to the throne in 1953.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come to**

3 **accede to** *sth*

formal if a country or leader accedes to an agreement or law, they sign it and officially agree to it: *India has announced that it will accede to the Montreal Protocol on controlling CFCs.* | *Hungary was the first Eastern European country to accede to the UN Convention on Refugees.*

ACCORD

accorded, accorded, according

accord with

accord with *sth*

formal to contain the same ideas, information etc as something else, especially so that they

A

both seem right: *Her evidence accorded with that of the other witnesses.* | *This view would seem to accord with Marx's own theories on the subject.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **agree with, back up**

ACCOUNT

accounted, accounted, accounting

account for

1 | **account for** | *sth* |

to form a particular part or amount of something: *Exports account for over 80 per cent of sales.* | *People from ethnic minority groups now account for one in ten of the population.* | *Britain plays by far the biggest role, accounting for 31 per cent of all foreign investment in the US.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make up**

2 | **account for** | *sth* |

to give a satisfactory explanation why something happened or why you did something: *How do you account for the sudden disappearance of the murder weapon?* | *His boss called him into his office and asked him to account for his actions.* | *This was one phenomenon which Darwin's theory of Evolution could not account for.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **explain**

3 | **account for** | *sth* |

to be the reason for something: *People felt that Clinton was doing a good job. This may account for his high popularity rating, despite the scandal over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.* | *Genetic factors probably account for the higher incidence of depression among women.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **explain**

4 | **account for** | *sb/sth* |

to know where people or things are, or what has happened to them, especially when you are worried that some of them are missing: *Firefighters later said all the children except for one little boy had been accounted for.* | *Most of the jewellery that was stolen has now been accounted for.*

5 | **account for** | *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

to say how money has been used or will be used: *Every penny of the taxpayer's money has to be accounted for.*

6 | **there's no accounting for taste** |

spoken used to say that it is difficult to understand why someone likes something or someone, or wants to do something: *"Why is Doug going out with that awful woman?" "Like they say, Rosie, there's no accounting for taste."*

ACE

aced, aced, acing

ace out

| **ace out** | *sb/sth* |

AmE informal to easily defeat someone or something: *Meg Ryan aced out Parker for the leading role in the film.*

ACHE

ached, ached, aching

ache for

a | **ache for** | *sth* |

to want something very much, and feel very unhappy that you cannot have it: *It had been a hard day, and I was aching for a good night's sleep.* | *Suddenly his heart ached for the sight of his native country.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **long for**

b | **ache for** | *sb* |

if you ache for someone you love, you feel very unhappy because you cannot be with them: *He ached for her, and longed to be back in her arms.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **long for**

ACQUAINT

acquainted, acquainted, acquainting

acquaint with

1 | **be acquainted with** | *sth* |

formal to know about something and be familiar with it because you have seen it, read it, used it etc: *Anyone who is acquainted with the details of the case will realize that the men are completely innocent.*

be fully acquainted with sth *All employees should be fully acquainted with health and safety regulations.*

be well acquainted with sth *He was well acquainted with the works of other European writers of his day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be familiar with**

2 | **acquaint yourself with** | *sth* |

formal to find out about something so that you are familiar with it: *She always took the trouble to acquaint herself with the interests of her students.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **find out**

3 | **acquaint** | *sb* | **with** | *sth* |

formal to give someone information about something so that they know about it and are familiar with it: *He decided to use this opportunity to acquaint her with his plans for the company.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tell sb about sth**

A

ACT

acted, acted, acting

act for

act for *sb*

if someone, especially a lawyer, acts for you, you employ them to deal with something for you or speak for you in a court of law: *Lawyers acting for ex-smokers are suing the big tobacco companies for billions of dollars.* | *The buyer of the painting said he was acting for an American client, who wished to remain anonymous.*

* SIMILAR TO: **represent**

act on/upon

● **Act upon** is more formal than **act on** and is mostly used in writing.

act on/upon *sth*

to do what someone has advised, ordered etc you to do, or do something because you have received some information or had an idea: *Acting on a hunch, she went into his study and looked through his letters.*

act on sb's advice/orders/suggestion *I realize now that I should have acted on my father's advice.*

act on information *Police say they were acting on information from an undisclosed source.*

act out

1 **act out** *sth* | **act** *sth* **out**

to perform the events in a story, play, or a situation: *We had to act out the story of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem.* | *Through playing, children act out the dramas of adult life, and learn how to master new situations.* | *Like every teenager, Kylie acted out her fantasies of pop stardom in front of her bedroom mirror.*

2 **act out** *sth* | **act** *sth* **out**

to express your feelings and emotions through your behaviour, especially as a way of getting rid of feelings of unhappiness or anger: *Teenagers often act out their frustrations by turning against their parents.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vent**

act up

1 **act up**

to behave badly – used especially about children: *He was always acting up in class and caused his teachers no end of trouble.* | *McEnroe developed something of a reputation for throwing tantrums and acting up on court.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play up** *BrE informal*

2 **act up**

informal if a part of your body acts up, it starts to hurt or stops working properly: *My elbow started acting up again, and I had to stop playing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play up** *BrE informal*

ADD

added, added, adding

add in

1 **add in** *sth* | **add** *sth* **in**

to include something when calculating the total amount of something: *If you add in all the other costs, we hardly made any profit.* | *Add in 90 million tons from industry, and America's grand total is around 250 million tons of waste-paper*

* SIMILAR TO: **include, factor in**

2 **add in** *sth* | **add** *sth* **in**

BrE to put something in with something else, in order to combine them together: *Add in the sugar and stir gently.*

add on

1 **add on** *sth* | **add** *sth* **on**

to increase the total amount or cost of something, by adding something more to it: *On top of the official fees, many schools add on other charges, for example for books or materials.* | *The referee added on a couple of minutes of injury time at the end of the game.* | *a tour of the Far East, with the option of adding on an extra week in Bali*

+ to *An additional service charge of 10% will be added on to your bill.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put on**

2 **add on** *sth* | **add** *sth* **on** | **add on**

to add another part to a house, town, garden etc, in order to make it larger: *The previous owners had added on an extension at the back of the house.* | *The Howard family added on to the castle in the 16th century.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build on**

add to

1 **add to** *sth*

to make something increase, for example the price or amount of something: *This will only add to the cost of getting it fixed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **increase**

2 **add to** *sth*

to make a feeling stronger, a quality more noticeable, or a situation worse: *The report will only add to the public's fears about genetically modified foods.* | *He seemed much older. No doubt his thick glasses added to this*

A

impression. | To add to their problems, the cost of borrowing money has increased sharply.

add up

1 **add up** *sth* **add** *sth* **up** **add up**

to calculate the total of several numbers or amounts: *The waiter took our bill away and added it up again. | It is extraordinary how often professional golfers add up their scores incorrectly. | As children we are all taught how to read, write, and add up.*

2 **add up** USUALLY NEGATIVE

if calculations or total amounts add up, they seem correct: *The sums just didn't add up. Someone had obviously made a mistake. | The CIA began noticing that North's sales of weapons and the money received from Iran did not add up. $3.5 million was missing.*

3 **add up**

if something adds up, it seems likely to be true or correct: *The facts all seemed to add up. He was the only person who could have carried out the murder.*

it adds up *If she hates him so much, why is she helping him? It simply doesn't add up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make sense**

4 **add up**

if small amounts or numbers add up, they produce a big total, especially one that is surprisingly big: *If you eat sweets and snacks every day, the calories soon add up. | The number of killed and wounded was starting to add up, and the captain refused to risk the lives of any more of his men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mount up**

5 **add** *sth* **up** **add up** *sth*

to consider all the facts about something or all the advantages and disadvantages, in order to form an opinion about it: *When I add everything up, I think I'm better off working from home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **weigh up**

add up to

1 **add up to** *sth*

to result in a particular total or amount: *Just 200 extra calories per day add up to one-half pound of extra body fat each week. | Seth's novel has 19 chapters, each with as many as 30 sections. These add up to 1,364 pages.*

* SIMILAR TO: **amount to**

2 **add up to** *sth*

to have a particular result or effect, especially to result in people having a particular opinion about something: *All this adds up to a remarkable achievement. | These differences add up to one conclusion. Government cannot be run like a business. | The Pyramids, the Valley of the Kings, cruising on the Nile – it all adds up to the holiday of a lifetime.*

* SIMILAR TO: **amount to**

ADDRESS

addressed, addressed, addressing

address to

address yourself to *sth*

formal to deal with or discuss a particular subject or problem: *The committee will address itself to three main issues. | The new administration has yet to address itself to the problem of reforming the gun laws.*

ADHERE

adhered, adhered, adhering

adhere to

1 **adhere to** *sth*

formal to obey a law, rule, or agreement: *Visitors should adhere to all local driving regulations. | countries which adhere to Islamic law | Both parties must adhere to the terms of the contract.*

* SIMILAR TO: **obey, keep to, abide by** *formal*

2 **adhere to** *sth*

formal to believe that an idea or opinion is true or right: *Some people still adhere to the view that homosexuality is somehow morally wrong. | Both he and Marx adhered to a similar philosophy.*

ADJOURN

adjourned, adjourned, adjourning

adjourn to

adjourn to *sth*

if you adjourn to a place, you go there, especially after you have finished doing something – often used humorously: *After the match we adjourned to the bar for some liquid refreshment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go to**

ADMIT

admitted, admitted, admitting

admit of

admit of *sth*

formal to make it possible for something to be allowed or accepted: *The present law admits of no exceptions. | The facts of the case admit of only one possible verdict.*

* SIMILAR TO: **allow**

admit to

admit to | sth

to say that you have done something wrong, especially something criminal, or say that you have a feeling which you feel embarrassed about: *I think he feels sorry for what happened, even though he's not willing to admit to it.*

admit to doing sth *Campbell was sent to prison after admitting to spying for the KGB. | Tony once admitted to drinking up to a bottle of whisky a day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **confess**

ADVISE

advised, advised, advising

advise of

advise | sb | of | sth

formal to tell someone about a fact or situation: *Patients were not advised of the potential risks of the treatment. | The police are legally obliged to advise people of their rights when they arrest them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell sb about sth**

AGREE

agreed, agreed, agreeing

agree with

1 not agree with | sb

if a type of food or drink does not agree with you, it makes you feel slightly ill: *I'll have white wine. Red wine doesn't really agree with me.*

2 agree with | sb

if a situation or place agrees with you, it makes you feel healthy or happy about your life: *Phyllis looked better than she had in a long time. The country air obviously agreed with her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suit**

AIM

aimed, aimed, aiming

aim at

1 aim at | sth

to try to achieve something: *We're aiming at a growth rate of 25%.*

aim at doing sth *They're currently aiming at having a computer in every classroom by the end of next year.*

be aimed at doing sth *talks aimed at ending the conflict in Northern Ireland | The government plans to introduce new taxes aimed at persuading drivers to switch to public transport.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot for** *AmE*

2 be aimed at | sb

if something is aimed at a particular type of person or group, it is intended for them to buy, watch, use etc: *a new TV sex education series aimed at teenagers | The course is aimed at people with a professional interest in gardening. | The Jaguar XK8 is aimed at the luxury end of the market.*

* SIMILAR TO: **direct at**

3 be aimed at | sb

if a remark is aimed at someone, it is intended to be about them or for them, often in a way which criticizes them: *I hope that last remark wasn't aimed at me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **direct at**

AIRBRUSH

airbrushed, airbrushed, airbrushing

airbrush out

airbrush | sb | out   airbrush out | sb

to deliberately pretend that someone did not exist or was not important, so that people forget about them – used especially about former political leaders

+ of *Mr Major claimed that Mrs Thatcher's supporters were trying to airbrush him out of British politics.*

ALLOW

allowed, allowed, allowing

allow for

1 allow for | sth

to consider or include something when making plans or calculations, or when making a judgment about something: *Make sure you allow for possible delays on the way to the airport. | Allowing for inflation, the cost of the two movies was roughly the same. | Even allowing for this, it's still a remarkable achievement.*

2 allow for | sth

to make it possible for something to happen: *The system allows for photos to be sent via computers and downloaded from the Internet. | The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, and therefore allows for political, economic, and scientific progress.*

allow of

allow of | sth

formal to make it possible for something to

A

happen or be accepted: *The facts allow of only one interpretation.* | *The small stock of provisions did not allow of imaginative cuisine.*

ALLUDE

alluded, alluded, alluding

allude to

allude to *sth/sb*

formal to mention someone or something indirectly: *The poet was alluding to his own relationship with Sylvia Plath.* | *In his speech the bishop talked about the "adulterers in public life" – apparently alluding to the recent behaviour of certain government ministers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **refer to**

AMOUNT

amounted, amounted, amounting

amount to

1 **amount to** *sth*

to be the same as something else, or seem to have the same effect: *These changes would amount to a revolution in our political system.* | *Pleasure and happiness do not necessarily amount to the same thing.* | *Disconnecting the feeding tube which keeps Tony Bland alive would amount to murder, the High Court was told yesterday.*

2 **not amount to much/anything/a great deal etc**

to not seem very important, good, successful etc: *Her own academic achievements didn't amount to much.*

3 **amount to** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to result in a particular total or amount: *Total bank lending to farmers in the province amounts to about $295m.* | *Agents' fees could amount to £2,000 on a £75,000 house – a substantial figure.* | *Annual emissions of sulphur from the mines are thought to amount to 700,000 tons.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up to, total**

ANGLE

angled, angled, angling

angle for

angle for *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to try to get something, by asking or talking about it in an indirect way: *We all knew she was angling for promotion.* | *Laura smiled at him, aware that he was angling for an invitation to come back home with her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fish for**

ANSWER

answered, answered, answering

answer back

answer back | **answer** *sb* **back**

especially BrE to answer someone rudely or say that you disagree with them, when you should obey them and be polite to them – used especially about children speaking rudely to teachers or parents: *If any of the students dared to answer back, they would be sent straight to the Principal's office.* | *Just do as your mother tells you, and don't answer her back!* | *The reason you like dogs is that they can't answer back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **talk back**

answer for

1 **answer for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if you have to answer for something bad that you have done or that has happened you are responsible for it and have to be punished for it if necessary

have to/must answer for sth *One day the general will have to answer for his crimes in a court of law.* | *A manager has to answer for the team's performance – if they do badly, he's likely to be out of a job.*

2 **have a lot/a great deal etc to answer for**

to be responsible for causing a lot of trouble: *The last government has a lot to answer for.* | *I think that television has a great deal to answer for*

3 **I can answer for** *sb/sth*

spoken used to say that you are sure that someone can definitely be trusted to do something, or that someone definitely has a particular quality: *I'm sure Jo will come. I can't answer for the others though.* | *I can't answer for his abilities as a teacher.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vouch for**

answer to

1 **answer to** *sb/sth*

if you answer to someone, you have to explain the reasons for your actions to them, and they can criticize or punish you if they disapprove: *Politicians have to answer to the voters at the general election.* | *When he dies he will have to answer to God, just like the rest of us.* | *rich entrepreneurs who answered to nobody but themselves and could do whatever they pleased*

2 **answer to the name of** *sth*

literary or humorous to be called a particular name, often a name that you think is unusual or humorous: *They had two cats: one was called Treacle, and the other answered to the name of Faustina.* | *an attractive well-dressed young woman answering to the name of Susan*

ANTE

anted, anted, anteing

ante up

ante up *sth* | **ante up**

AmE to pay an amount of money, especially in order to take part in a card game in which you win or lose money: *215 poker players anted up $10,000 each on Monday to play in the eliminating game.* | *20th Century Fox will ante up $1.5 million for the 'Almost Adam' movie rights.*

APPEAL

appealed, appealed, appealing

appeal to

appeal to *sb*

if something or someone appeals to you, they seem attractive or interesting: *The movie will appeal to children of all ages.* | *I can't say that the idea of living abroad has ever really appealed to me.*

APPERTAIN

appertained, appertained, appertaining

appertain to

appertain to *sth*

formal to be about a particular subject or situation – used especially in official or legal situations

appertaining to sth *Staff should be familiar with all the general facts and figures appertaining to the size, shape and types of rooms.*

APPRISE

apprised, apprised, apprising

apprise of

apprise *sb* **of** *sth*

formal to tell someone the facts about something that has happened: *I thought it right to apprise Cyril of what had happened at Muirfield.*

be fully apprised of sth (=have been told all the facts about it) *The minister said he was fully apprised of the case.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform** *formal*

APPROVE

approved, approved, approving

approve of

◆ **approve of** *sth/sb*

to think that something or someone is good, right or suitable: *His parents didn't really approve of the marriage.* | *Nigel didn't approve of her – he thought she was a bit pompous.* | *The vast majority of people approve of the government's policies on immigration.*

● OPPOSITE: **disapprove of**

APPROXIMATE

approximated, approximated, approximating

approximate to

approximate to *sth*

formal to be almost the same as a particular number or amount, or a particular situation: *This figure approximates to the total population of Western Europe.* | *They do roughly the same job, so their wages should approximate to each other.* | *The training is intended to approximate to the real situation on the battlefield.*

ARGUE

argued, argued, arguing

argue out

argue *sth* **out** | **argue out** *sth*

to argue about or discuss every part of something in order to make a final decision about it: *They had spent months arguing out the details of the divorce.* | *I didn't want to have to argue it out with him again.*

ARRIVE

arrived, arrived, arriving

arrive at

◆ **arrive at** *sth*

to make a decision or agreement about something, especially after discussing it or considering it for a long time: *The jury took 5 hours to arrive at a verdict.* | *All attempts to arrive at some kind of power-sharing agreement have so far been unsuccessful.* | *Acting independently, the two scientists both arrived at the same conclusion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach, come to**

ARSE

arsed, arsed, arsing

● **Arse** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

arse about/around

arse about/around

BrE informal to waste time doing silly or unimportant things: *Stop arsing about and get back to your work!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*, **fool about/around**

A

ASCRIBE

ascribed, ascribed, ascribing

ascribe to

1 **ascribe** *sth* **to** *sth*

formal to say or believe that something is caused by something else: *An inquest was held on the following day and her death was ascribed to natural causes.* | *the peace-loving nature of the Burmese people, which is often ascribed to Buddhism* | *Some commentators have ascribed the rise in the number of homeless mentally ill people to the closure of large psychiatric hospitals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

2 **ascribe** *sth* **to** *sb/sth*

formal to believe that someone or something has a particular quality or value: *It is wrong to ascribe human qualities such as greed and revenge to animals.* | *the status traditionally ascribed to members of the aristocracy* | *the importance ascribed to material wealth in western societies*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

3 **ascribe** *sth* **to** *sb*

formal to say or believe that something was first said, written, invented etc by a particular person: *This quotation is usually ascribed to Descartes.* | *It has been suggested that many of the plays that are normally ascribed to William Shakespeare were actually written by Francis Bacon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

ASK

asked, asked, asking

ask after

ask after *sb/sth*

to ask about someone, especially about their health or what they have been doing: *Helen was asking after you – she was pleased when I told her how well your business was doing.* | *Lady Agnes asked after Kathleen's health.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inquire after** *formal*

ask along

ask *sb* **along** **ask along** *sb*

to invite someone to go somewhere with you: *It was very generous of them to ask her along, but Lou would much rather stay at home.* | *Why don't you ask some of your friends along?*

ask around

ALSO **ask round** *BrE*

ask around/round

to ask several people about something in order to find the information or help that you need: *I'll ask around and see if there's a room available.* | *"Do you know anyone who wants to buy a bike?" "I don't know – I'll ask around for you."*

ask for

1 **ask for** *sth*

to say that you would like to have something: *She called the waiter and asked for the bill.* | *Victims are often too frightened to ask for help.* | *Last year he asked for a big French dictionary for his birthday.*

2 **ask for** *sb*

to say that you would like to speak to someone: *Talbot was asking for you earlier.* | *He called the police station and asked for Inspector Tennison.*

3 **I/you couldn't ask for a better...**

especially spoken used to say that someone or something is the best of their kind: *Alan's really nice – I couldn't ask for a better boss!* | *You couldn't ask for a more romantic place for a holiday.*

4 **sb is asking for trouble**

used to say that someone is doing something that is clearly dangerous or likely to cause something bad to happen to them: *Anyone who goes into Chapeltown after dark is asking for trouble.*

5 **sb was asking for it**

spoken used to say that someone deserved to be attacked or deserved something bad that happened to them, and you do not feel any sympathy for them: *"Why did you hit him?" "He was asking for it."*

ask in

ask *sb* **in**

BrE to invite someone to come into a room or building, especially your home or your office: *I asked him in for a cup of coffee.* | *"Lydia's here to see you." "Ask her in, will you?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite in**

ask out

ask *sb* **out**

to ask someone to go to a restaurant, film etc with you, especially because you want to start a romantic relationship with them: *At first he was too shy to ask her out.*

+ for *She rang me up that same evening and asked me out for a drink.* | *Brad wouldn't have asked her out for a meal if he didn't like her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite out**

ask over/round

ask *sb* **over/round**

to invite someone to come to your house, especially so that you can have a meal or drinks with them: *You must ask him over for dinner some time. | We've asked some friends round this weekend. You're welcome to join us if you want.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite over/round**

ask round

SEE **ask around/round**

SEE **ask over/round**

ASPIRE

aspired, aspired, aspiring

aspire to

aspire to *sth*

to want to try to achieve something in the future that is better than what you have now: *Young people aspiring to careers in industry should seriously think about setting up their own small firms. | South Africa finally got the democracy that it had aspired to for so long.*

ASSOCIATE

associated, associated, associating

associate with

1 **be associated with** *sth/sb*

to be connected with something or someone, or thought to be connected with them – used especially about problems, dangers, or qualities: *We all know the risks that are associated with smoking. | Increasing old age is usually associated with ill-health. | Oxford is a national centre for the treatment of problems associated with childbirth. | Such skills are all traditionally associated with women.*

2 **associate** *sth* **with** *sth/sb*

to make a connection in your mind between one person or thing and another: *People usually associate Japan with high-tech consumer products. | In the West we associate aging with decline, dependency, and often poverty.*

3 **associate with** *sb*

to spend time with someone, especially a group who other people disapprove of: *Middle-class families didn't want their children associating with boys from the estate. | They found that he had been associating with known Communists, and his career was effectively over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mix with**

ATONE

atoned, atoned, atoning

atone for

atone for *sth*

formal to do something to show that you are sorry for something wrong that you have done, especially by trying to improve the situation: *They were anxious to atone for their sins. | In the post-war period, Hollywood began to atone for its blatantly racist depictions of African Americans.*

ATTEND

attended, attended, attending

attend to

1 **attend to** *sth*

formal to deal with something, especially a problem or something that you must do: *Tom left early, saying he had some important business to attend to. | In those days women were expected to stay at home and attend to their domestic duties.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deal with, see to**

2 **attend to** *sb*

formal to help or look after someone, for example a customer in a shop or someone who is ill or injured: *Adam waited while the girl attended to the next customer. | Army medics were busy attending to the wounded. | She has to get up three or four times a night in order to attend to her elderly mother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see to**

3 **attend to** *sth*

formal to treat a wound or injury: *He went to the local hospital to have the wound attended to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see to**

4 **attend to** *sth*

formal to provide someone with the things that they need to have: *Schools in the area are failing to attend to children's educational needs.*

ATTEST

attested, attested, attesting

attest to

1 **attest to** *sth*

formal to show or prove that something is true: *Many studies attest to the fact that depression is becoming much more common, due to the increased pressures of modern life. | The numerous books on his shelves attest to his broad range of interests.*

A

2 | **attest to** | *sth* |

formal to say that something is definitely true or that something definitely works: *I know dozens of people who can attest to the treatment's effectiveness.* | *There was no one who could attest to his innocence.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **vouch for**

ATTRIBUTE

attributed, attributed, attributing

attribute to

1 | **attribute** | *sth* | **to** | *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

to say or believe that a situation, event etc is caused by something: *Recent changes in the Earth's climate have been attributed to pollution from cars and factories.* | *Some diseases which were once attributed to evil spirits may have been forms of mental illness.*

2 | **attribute** | *sth* | **to** | *sb* | USUALLY PASSIVE

to say or believe that something was said, invented, or done by a particular person: *The arch is attributed to Giovanni Maria Filippi, who was court architect to Rudolf II.* | *I remembered reading a similar quotation attributed to Voltaire.* | *Murders and kidnappings which were previously attributed to right-wing death squads are now thought to have been carried out by the army.*

3 | **attribute** | *sth* | **to** | *sb/sth* |

formal to say or believe that someone or something has a particular quality: *We must be very careful in attributing human motives to animals.*

attribute great importance to sth (=say or believe that something is very important) *Our ancestors attributed great importance to the positions of the stars and the planets.*

ATTUNE

be attuned to

| **be attuned to** | *sth* |

formal to be familiar with how someone thinks or behaves, and what they want or need: *Teachers should be properly attuned to the needs of their students.* | *Film-makers like Tarantino and Stone are more attuned to today's audiences.*

AUCTION

auctioned, auctioned, auctioning

auction off

| **auction off** | *sth* | | **auction** | *sth* | **off** |

to sell something, for example land or someone's possessions, at an auction. An auction is a public meeting where goods are sold to the person who offers the most money: *The family were short of money, and the contents of Eglinton Castle had to be auctioned off.* | *The company will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.*

AVAIL

availed, availed, availing

avail of

| **avail yourself of** | *sth* |

formal to use an opportunity to do something or accept an offer to do something: *Thousands of people availed themselves of the opportunity to buy shares in the company.* | *Staff wishing to avail themselves of this flexitime arrangement should discuss it with their manager.*

AVERAGE

averaged, averaged, averaging

average out

1 | **average out** | *sth* | | **average** | *sth* | **out** |

to calculate the average amount of a set of figures: *If you average out the scores, you get a total of 8.5, which is pretty good.*

2 | **average out/average each other out** |

if totals average out, they are equal in amount or number: *The differences in price between the two systems average out over a year.*

average out at/to

| **average out at/to** | *sth* |

to have a particular amount as the average: *"How much do you spend on groceries?" "I think it averages out at around $150 a week."* | *Our training costs for last year averaged out at £5,100 per trainee.*

AWAKE

awoke, awoken, awaking

awake to

| **awake to** | *sth* | | **awake** | *sb* | **to** | *sth* |

formal to realize something, especially something important that has a big effect, or to make someone realize something: *It took almost twenty years before the authorities finally awoke to the full extent of the problem.* | *Orwell wanted to awake his readers to the realities of living on the streets.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wake up to**

B

BACK

backed, backed, backing

back away

1 **back away**

to move backwards so that you are further away from someone or something, often because you are afraid or nervous: *"Are you crazy?" she cried, backing away in horror.*

+ **from** *The gunman began backing away from the counter, watching the cashier the whole time.*

2 **back away**

to become unwilling to do something that you promised or planned to do, especially because you do not support the idea or plan any more: *We thought we had a deal, but the seller is starting to back away.*

+ **from** *The government has been accused of backing away from a promise to increase welfare benefits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back off**

back down

back down

to accept that you cannot win an argument or fight and stop trying to win, or accept that you are wrong and change your decision, when you do not want to do this: *The union refused to back down and called for immediate strike action. | In the end Krushchev backed down and agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba.*

+ **on/over** *The government may have to back down on some of its transport policies if it wants to win the next election.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in**

back off

1 **back off**

to move backwards so that you are further away from someone or something: *He backed off immediately when I told him my boyfriend was waiting outside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back away**

2 **back off**

to stop trying to influence or force someone to do or think something: *You should back off for a while and let Alan make his own decisions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay off**

3 **back off**

to gradually become unwilling to do something that you promised or planned to do, especially because you do not support the idea or plan any more

+ **from** *The President is backing off from his plans to accelerate democratic change.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back away**

4 **back off!**

spoken, especially AmE used to tell someone to go away and stop annoying or criticizing you or another person: *Hey, back off, buddy! Can't you see it's none of your business?*

back onto/on to

back onto/on to *sth*

BrE if a building backs onto something such as a river, field, or road, the back of the building faces it and you can see it or reach it from there: *an old black and white pub, backing on to the river | The house backs onto a field and a nature reserve beyond.*

back out

back out

to decide not to do something that you have agreed to do: *The actress who was originally going to play the part backed out at the last minute.*

+ **of** *She's made a promise and she can't back out of it now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull out**

back up

1 **back up** *sth* **back** *sth* **up**

to prove that something is true: *There was no scientific evidence to back up their claims. | It was fortunate that the videotape backed up the manager's story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **support**

2 **back** *sb* **up** **back up** *sb*

to support someone by saying that they are telling the truth: *Peggy was there too. She'll be able to back me up. | He swears he's telling the truth and has witnesses who will back him up.*

3 **back up** *sb/sth* **back** *sb/sth* **up**

to provide help or support for someone or something: *Officials discussed the possibility of using military forces to back up the police. | a series of security arrangements which would back up a peace deal | solar power, backed up by a propane generator*

back-up N [SINGULAR, U]
help or support for someone or something: *Several police cars provided back-up for the officers.*

B

back-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
back-up systems, services, or equipment are designed to be used if the main one does not work effectively: *Nuclear reactors have superbly efficient back-up systems in case of emergencies.*

4 | **back up** *sth* | | **back** *sth* **up** |

to make a copy of information on a computer, and store it on a separate disk or tape so that the information is safe if there is a problem with the computer: *You should back up your data at least once a week.*

back-up N [C]
a copy of information on a computer: *The tape drive does an automatic back-up every lunchtime.* | *Remember to keep back-ups of all your important files.*

back-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
used or produced when you make a copy of information on a computer: *back-up disks* | *a back-up copy*

5 | **back up** | | **back up** *sth* | | **back** *sth* **up** |

if you back up or back a vehicle up, you drive backwards: *Will you back up a bit so that I can get through, please?* | *The driver backed the taxi up to the hotel door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reverse** *BrE*

6 | **back up** |

if traffic backs up, it stops moving and forms a long line because there are so many vehicles: *If you leave town after five o'clock the traffic starts backing up really badly.*

BAG
bagged, bagged, bagging

bag up

| **bag up** *sth* | | **bag** *sth* **up** |

to put things into plastic or paper bags: *You'd better bag all this rubbish up before you put it in the bin.* | *We spent a couple of hours bagging up clothes to take to the charity shop.*

BAIL
bailed, bailed, bailing

bail out

1 | **bail** *sb/sth* **out** | | **bail out** *sb/sth* |

to help a person or organization to get out of trouble, especially by giving them money when they have financial problems: *Richard has run up huge debts at college and his parents have refused to bail him out.* | *The government has bailed out the car industry too many times in the past.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** *BrE*

2 | **bail** *sb* **out** | | **bail out** *sb* |

to leave a large sum of money with a court of law so that someone can be let out of prison until their trial takes place: *Clarke's family paid $50,000 to bail him out.*

bail sb out of jail/prison *Whittingham bailed Taylor out of jail, and even paid for the damage he'd done.*

3 | **bail out** | | **bail out** *sth* | | **bail** *sth* **out** |

to remove water from the bottom of a boat by collecting it in a container and throwing it over the side of the boat: *We were bailing out as fast as we could, but it was no use – we were sinking.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** *BrE*

4 | **bail out** |

to jump out of a plane in order to escape, because it is going to crash: *The aircraft was hit, but the pilot managed to bail out just in time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** *BrE*

5 | **bail out** |

to stop being involved in or part of something, often because there are difficulties: *After ten years in the business, McArthur is bailing out.*

+ of *She decided it was time to bail out of a marriage that had become unbearable.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** *BrE*

bail out on

| **bail out on** *sb* |

AmE to stop supporting someone: *It was a moral issue and a lot of people bailed out on the President.*

BALANCE
balanced, balanced, balancing

balance against

| **balance** *sth* **against** *sth* |

to consider the importance of one thing in relation to something else when you are making a decision: *The cost of treatment has to be balanced against expected benefits.* | *When the life of a pregnant mother is at risk, balanced against the life of the unborn child, the mother's welfare should take priority.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set against**

balance out
ALSO **balance up** *BrE*

1 | **balance out/up** |

if two or more things balance out or up, the final result is that they are equal in amount or effect: *Sometimes I look after the kids and sometimes John does – so in the end it all balances out.*

2 **balance** *sth* **out/up** **balance out/up** *sth*

if you balance out or up two or more things, you make them equal in amount or effect: *You have to try and balance up what you want with what you can actually afford.*

BALE

baled, baled, baling

bale out

1 **bale** *sb/sth* **out** **bale out** *sb/sth*

BrE to help a person or organization to get out of trouble especially by giving them money when they have financial problems: *Once, when things were going particularly badly, Craig offered to bale us out.* | *The company was in severe trouble and it had to be baled out by the government.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

2 **bale out**

BrE to jump out of a plane in order to escape, because it is going to crash: *Thacker baled out into the sea, and the aircraft crashed off Delimara Point.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

3 **bale out** **bale out** *sth* **bale** *sth* **out**

BrE to remove water from the bottom of a boat by collecting it in a container and throwing it over the side of the boat: *Jane got a bucket and started baling out, while I rowed back towards the shore*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

4 **bale out**

BrE to stop being involved in or part of something often because there are difficulties: *The Blue Aeroplanes had another two members bale out from the band last week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

BALK *also* BAULK *BrE*

balked, balked, balking
baulked, baulked, baulking

balk at
ALSO **baulk at** *BrE*

1 **balk at** *sth*

to not want to do or try something because it seems difficult, unpleasant, or frightening: *Westerners balk at the prospect of snake and dog on the menu.*

balk at doing sth *Many people would balk at setting up a new business during a recession.*

2 **balk at a fence/jump**

if a horse balks at a fence, it stops suddenly and refuses to jump over it: *They'd nearly completed a clear round, but the horse balked at the last fence.*

BALLS

ballsed, ballsed, ballsing

● **Balls** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

B

balls up

balls up *sth* **balls** *sth* **up** **balls up**

BrE informal to do something very badly or unsuccessfully: *"How did the interview go?" "Don't ask – I really ballsed it up!"* | *The referee reviewed the decision on video and told the FA he'd ballsed up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *informal*, **cock up** *BrE informal*

balls-up N [C]
BrE informal when someone does something very badly or unsuccessfully: *Nigel made a complete balls-up of the arrangements.*

BAND

banded, banded, banding

band together

band together

to form a group and work together in order to do or achieve something: *Recently, a few brave shopkeepers banded together and refused to pay 'protection' money to the mafia.*

+ to do sth *Bulgarians and Greeks banded together to repel the invaders.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get together, team up, unite**

BANDAGE

bandaged, bandaged, bandaging

bandage up

bandage up *sth/sb* **bandage** *sth/sb* **up**

to tie a long narrow piece of material around a part of the body that is injured: *The nurse bandaged me up and sent me home to rest.* | *Johnny came back on the pitch with his knee bandaged up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bandage**

BANDY

bandied, bandied, bandying

bandy about/around

bandy about/around *sth*

bandy *sth* **about/around**

to mention or discuss a word, name, idea etc

often, especially without considering it very carefully: *Names like Scott Thomas and Kate Moss are being bandied about for starring roles in the show.* | *Words like 'world-class' and 'brilliant' are bandied around in the press, but is this young performer really such a genius?*

* SIMILAR TO: **toss around**

B

BANG

banged, banged, banging

bang around ALSO bang about *BrE*

1 **bang around/about**

to move around a place, doing things and making a lot of noise: *Michael was banging about in the garage, hunting for his tools.* | *If you get up early, don't start banging around – you'll wake me up.*

2 **bang** *sth* **around/about**
bang around/about *sth*

to move things around a place in a noisy way, or to use them roughly and carelessly: *In the kitchen, Tessa banged saucepans about irritably.*

3 **bang around/about**

if an object bangs around or about, it moves around noisily hitting other objects, because it has become loose or has been badly packed: *I could hear the garage door banging about in the wind.* | *There's something banging around in the back of the car.*

bang away

1 **bang away**

to hit something noisily again and again: *Seizing his hammer, he began to bang away with renewed enthusiasm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hammer away**

2 **bang away**

to play music loudly and often not very skilfully on the piano, drum etc

+ at/on *Mick was banging away on an old piano all evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pound away**

3 **bang away**

informal, especially AmE to work hard at something

+ at/on *Marcel banged away on his paper all night, and finished it just before class the next morning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toil away, slave away**

4 **bang** *sb* **away** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to put someone in prison: *"The sooner we get these thugs banged away, the better," said Sergeant Maxwell.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang up** *BrE informal*

bang down

1 **bang down** *sth* **bang** *sth* **down**

to put something down violently and noisily, especially because you are annoyed: *"That's enough!" Laura said, banging down the iron.*

+ on *Alan banged his fist down on the table and glared at Kellerman.*

bang down the phone/receiver *She swore at him and banged down the phone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slam down**

2 **bang the door down/bang down the door**

to break a door by hitting it violently in order to enter a room or building by force: *Her husband threatened to bang the door down if she didn't let him in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down, smash down**

bang into

bang into *sth/sb*

to knock against something or someone by accident when you are moving around: *He didn't dare switch the light on, and he banged into some shelves in the darkness.* | *The little boy kept running round and round the shop banging into people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bump into**

bang on

bang on

BrE informal to talk continuously about something in a boring way

+ about *She keeps banging on about how wonderful her darling son is.* | *The Treasury has been banging on about the need to make savings for the past two years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** *informal*

bang out

1 **bang out** *sth* **bang** *sth* **out**

to play a tune loudly in a careless way, especially on a piano: *The window was open and I could hear someone inside banging out some Scott Joplin.* | *an old photo of Lennon banging out chords in some scruffy club in Liverpool*

2 **bang out** *sth* **bang** *sth* **out**

to write a story, report etc very quickly, especially using a computer or typewriter: *In just one week, Reiger banged out 'Meeting Girls', a play about a high-school reunion.* | *Journalists fly into the disaster area, bang out a quick story, and leave.*

bang up

1 **bang** *sb* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to put someone in prison: *Their father had been banged up in Liverpool jail for more than a year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang away** *BrE informal*

2 **bang up** *sth/sb* **bang** *sth/sb* **up**

AmE informal to seriously damage something or injure something or someone: *My car got pretty banged up, but I'm okay.* | *Brown banged up his knee in yesterday's game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock about/around, bash up** *BrE informal*

banged-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] *AmE informal* old and damaged: *She drives a banged-up blue Subaru.*

BANK
banked, banked, banking

bank on

bank on *sth*

to rely on something happening or on someone doing something, especially because the success of something depends on it: *The Chancellor is banking on a spending boom to boost the economy.*

bank on doing sth *They were banking on getting Kate Winslet to play the star role.*

I wouldn't bank on it *spoken* (=used to emphasize that something is not at all definite and you cannot rely on it) *It looks like the weather will be good on the day, but I wouldn't bank on it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count on, rely on**

bank up

1 **bank** *sth* **up** **bank up** *sth*

to make earth, sand, snow etc into a pile: *Huge mounds of snow were banked up on either side of the road.* | *Heavy rain had washed the soil and leaves down the slope, and banked them up beside the gate.*

2 **bank up** *sth* **bank** *sth* **up**

BrE if you bank up a fire, you put a lot of coal onto it, so that it will keep burning for a long time: *Lily banked up the fire, and went out, closing the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build up**

BARGAIN
bargained, bargained, bargaining

bargain away

bargain away *sth* **bargain** *sth* **away**

if you bargain away something, for example your rights, land etc, you agree to give them away, in return for getting something else that you want: *Over the years employees have bargained away many of their rights in return for higher salaries.*

bargain for

more than you bargained for

used to say that something was more than you expected, and you were surprised or it caused problems for you: *It was a wonderful holiday but it cost a lot more than we'd bargained for.*

get more than you had bargained for *The thief got more than he'd bargained for when Mr Cox turned a gun on him.*

bargain for/on

sb **hadn't bargained for/on** *sth*

if you hadn't bargained for something, you did not expect it to happen, and you are surprised or it causes problems for you: *What they hadn't bargained for was the prejudice of the trial judge.* | *I hadn't bargained on being stuck in traffic for two hours on Kilburn High Road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reckon with**

BARGE
barged, barged, barging

barge in/into

1 **barge in** **barge into** *sth*

to rudely enter a building or room without being asked, especially when it is a private place and other people are in there: *Connors barged in when we were in the middle of a meeting.* | *I wish you wouldn't barge into the bathroom without knocking!*

2 **barge in** **barge into** *sth*

to interrupt what someone else is saying or doing, especially when you are not wanted there and you spoil it for them: *Gordon had an annoying habit of sitting down and barging into other people's conversations.* | *I was perfectly happy until Dane Jacobsen came barging into my life.*

+ on *We were anxious not to barge in on the ceremony, but the local people waved to us to join them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **intrude**

BARK
barked, barked, barking

bark out

bark out *sth* **bark** *sth* **out**

to shout something loudly and suddenly,

especially an order: *The general began barking out orders to his staff.*

BASE

based, based, basing

B

base on/upon

● **Base upon** is more formal than **base on** and is mostly used in writing.

base *sth* **on/upon** *sth*

to use facts, ideas, written material etc that you already have in order to decide or produce something: *I based my decision on what I thought would be best for the children.* | *The movie was based on a novel by Sinclair Lewis.* | *The results, based on replies from over 10,000 schoolchildren, showed that 30% of them smoked on a regular basis.*

BASH

bashed, bashed, bashing

bash about

bash *sth/sb* **about**

BrE informal to treat something or someone roughly or hit them, especially with the result that you damage or hurt them: *I don't mind you borrowing the car as long as you don't bash it about.* | *Sam came home covered in bruises, saying he'd been bashed about at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock about/around, bash up** *AmE informal*

bash away

bash away

informal, especially BrE to work hard and continuously at something you find difficult or boring in order to try and get it right or to finish it

+ at *Mike spent the weekend bashing away at his revision.* | *I'd been bashing away at my essay all morning and made almost no progress.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slave away, slog away** *BrE informal*

bash in

bash in *sth* | **bash** *sth* **in**

informal to break, damage, or seriously injure something, especially by hitting it very hard: *The car's rear window had been bashed in, and there was glass all over the seat.* | *I'll bash your head in if you say that again!*

bash on

bash on

BrE informal to continue travelling or doing something even when it is difficult and you are not enjoying it: *I'm still bashing on with the book, and I hope it will be finished by the summer.* | *"There's nothing we can do except bash on," said Geoff. "We must be nearly there."*

* SIMILAR TO: **carry on**

bash up

1 **bash up** *sth* | **bash** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to damage something by treating it roughly: *Some of the fruit was a bit bashed up, so they let us have it really cheaply.*

2 **bash up** *sb/sth* | **bash** *sb/sth* **up**

BrE informal to seriously hurt someone or damage a part of their body by attacking them violently: *They said they'd bash me up if I said anything to the teachers.*

be bashed up *Marie's face was all bashed up; I think her boyfriend did it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **duff up/in/over** *BrE spoken informal*

BASK

basked, basked, basking

bask in

bask in *sth*

to enjoy very much the attention or admiration that other people give you, or the feeling of success: *The group were at the height of their popularity, and they basked in the admiration of their fans.*

bask in the glory of sth *Christie was basking in the glory of his sensational Olympic 100 metres victory.*

BAT

batted, batted, batting

bat around

bat around *sth* | **bat** *sth* **around**

BrE informal to discuss ideas, in order to decide whether they are good or which one is the best: *We batted around several suggestions at the committee meeting, but none of them seemed quite right.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toss around, knock around**

BATHE

be bathed in

be bathed in sunshine/moonlight etc

literary if a place is bathed in light, the light shines on or into it in a way that makes it look very pleasant or attractive

BATTEN

battened, battened, battening

batten down

batten down *sth* | **batten** *sth* **down**

to firmly fasten a window, door, or entrance, in order to prevent damage from strong winds: *Stephen was busy battening down all the shutters and doors before the hurricane arrived.* | *An order was quickly given to batten down the ship's hatches and cover them.*

batten on

batten on *sb*

BrE old-fashioned to have a comfortable life or become successful by using or getting someone else's money in an unfair way: *Advertising makes people buy things they do not want, enabling huge multinational companies to batten on the working classes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sponge off**

BATTER

battered, battered, battering

batter down

1 **batter down** *sth* | **batter** *sth* **down**

BrE to hit a door or wall very hard many times until it breaks and falls down: *Armed police battered the front door down and dragged the men into the street.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down**

2 **batter down** *sth* | **batter** *sth* **down**

BrE if you batter down someone's opposition you make them stop being opposed to something: *Mandy succeeded in battering down Simon's resistance with her charm.* | *His mother had a sharp tongue, which she used for battering down any opposition.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down**

BATTLE

battled, battled, battling

battle out

battle it out

if people, teams etc battle it out, they fight, oppose, or compete with each other until one person or team wins, using a lot of effort

+ **for** *On Sunday the professionals will be battling it out for the first prize of $1,000,000.*

+ **with** *After five years of battling it out with the planning department we finally got approval to build the house.*

BAULK

SEE **balk** ALSO **baulk** *BrE*

BAWL

bawled, bawled, bawling

bawl out

1 **bawl out** *sth* | **bawl** *sth* **out**

informal to shout or sing something in a very loud unpleasant voice: *The Sergeant came striding into the hut and bawled out an order.* | *On the way home, the train was full of football fans, bawling out rude songs.* | *I heard someone bawl my name out from across the street.*

2 **bawl** *sb* **out** | **bawl out** *sb*

informal to speak angrily to someone because they have done something wrong: *My mother really bawled me out for coming home late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell off, chew out** *AmE informal*

BEAM

beamed, beamed, beaming

beam up

beam *sb* **up** | **beam up** *sb*

to make someone's body disappear from a planet's surface and appear again a moment later in a space ship – used in space adventure stories: *Beam me up, Scotty!*

BEAR

bore, borne, bearing

bear down

1 **bear down**

to use all your strength to push or press down on something: *The men all bore down, but the stone wouldn't budge.*

2 **bear down**

AmE to use all your effort to do something: *The home team have to bear down again and get serious if they want to win the game.*

3 **bear down**

BrE if a woman who is having a baby bears down, she uses a lot of effort to push the baby out of her body: *Jane gritted her teeth and bore down groaning.*

4 **bear** *sb* **down**

literary if someone or something heavy bears you down, they push you down towards the ground: *Justine half rose at one point, but he bore her down again.* | *A heavy weight fell on his shoulders, bearing him down, stunning him with the blow.*

B

B

bear down on/upon

● **Bear down upon** is more formal than **bear down on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 | **bear down on/upon** | *sb/sth* |

to move quickly towards someone or something in a threatening or determined way: *The ship bore down on us and for a few moments there seemed to be no escape.* | *Billy looked up and frowned as he saw his mother bearing down on him.*

2 | **bear down on/upon** | *sb/sth* |

to have a strong effect on someone or something, especially by creating pressure on them: *When they speak, I feel the force of history bearing down on me.* | *The Abbey's sombre traditions were bearing down on him.*

bear on/upon

● **Bear upon** is more formal than **bear on** and is mostly used in writing.

| **bear on/upon** | *sth* |

formal to have a connection with something and affect it in some way: *Ten years later, new evidence was found which bore on the case.* | *The Chinese scholar T'ang Chun-i made an important point that bears upon this discussion.*

bear out

| **bear out** | *sth/sb* | | **bear** | *sth/sb* | **out** |

to support what someone has said or written and so help to prove that it is true: *Recent research bears out the idea that women are safer drivers than men.* | *I told them exactly what had happened, and Dudley bore me out.*

bear up

| **bear up** | USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to remain cheerful and not be badly affected by a bad situation, illness etc: *It's been a very difficult year for my father, but he's bearing up quite well.*

how is sb bearing up (=how do they feel) *How's Rosie bearing up under all the strain?*

bear with

| **bear with me** |

spoken used to politely ask someone to wait or be patient while you do something: *Bear with me a moment while I make a phone call.* | *I hope you will bear with me if I tell you a little about my own situation.*

BEAT

beat, beaten, beating

beat down

1 | **the sun beats down** |

if the sun beats down, it shines very strongly and the weather is hot: *The sun was beating down on our backs and our throats were dry.* | *It's incredible how animals have adapted to this harsh environment, where the sun beats down remorselessly every day.*

2 | **the rain beats down** |

if the rain beats down, it rains very hard: *At that moment the sky darkened and the rain began to beat down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**

3 | **beat** | *sb* | **down** |

BrE to persuade someone to reduce the price of something you are buying, by arguing about it: *They wanted $250,000 for the house but we beat them down to $200,000.* | *He wants £7,000 for his car, but I'm sure I can beat him down a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, get down**

4 | **beat** | *sb* | **down** | USUALLY PASSIVE

AmE if a situation or person beats you down, they make you lose enthusiasm or energy: *I was really excited when I first started the job, but I soon felt beaten down by the negative atmosphere in the office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear down, get down**

beat off

1 | **beat off** | *sb/sth* | | **beat** | *sb/sth* | **off** |

to succeed in stopping someone from attacking you, by hitting them: *The old man managed to beat off his attackers using his walking stick.* | *Although the dog looked very fierce, I was able to beat it off.*

2 | **beat off** | *sth/sb* | | **beat** | *sth/sb* | **off** |

to succeed in defeating someone who is competing with you or opposing you: *The manufacturers were looking at different techniques in an effort to beat off their rivals.*

beat off competition *Rolls Royce beat off competition from the American companies for the new engine contract.* | *Stuart Ewin ran twenty yards, beating off strong challenges from the other team, before driving the ball home.*

3 | **beat off** |

AmE informal if a man beats off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, toss off** *BrE informal*

beat out

1 **beat out a rhythm**

if you beat out a rhythm on a drum, you make the drum produce a regular pattern of sounds: *When the ceremony was about to begin, someone began to beat out a rhythm on the drums.*

2 **beat out** *sth* | **beat** *sth* **out**

to make a fire stop burning by hitting it with something

beat out a fire/the flames *Heather seized a branch of a tree and began to beat out the flames.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put out**

3 **beat** *sb* **out** | **beat out** *sb*

AmE informal to defeat someone or do better than them in a competition: *The Raiders beat out their rivals, the Kansas City Chiefs.*

beat out of

beat *sth* **out of** *sb*

to force someone to tell you something, by hitting them until they agree to talk: *The police said that if he didn't tell them where the girl was, they'd beat it out of him.*

beat up

beat *sb* **up** | **beat up** *sb*

to attack and seriously hurt someone, by hitting or kicking them many times: *Two men dragged him from his car and beat him up so badly he was in hospital for a month.* | *He was beaten up by a gang of thugs in the city centre.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bash up** *BrE informal*, **do over** *BrE spoken informal*

beat up on

beat up on *sb*

AmE to attack someone or criticize them unfairly, especially someone younger or weaker than you are: *Basically Popeye's a nice guy. He just beats up on bad guys.* | *Kerry accused politicians of beating up on immigrants to get votes.*

BEAVER

beavered, beavered, beavering

beaver away

beaver away

BrE informal to work hard at something, especially in an eager way and giving it all your attention: *The mechanics have been beavering away all night, trying to get Alessi's car ready for the race.*

+ at *There was an enormous amount of paperwork, and we all beavered away at it for days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slog away, plug away, slave away**

BECOME

became, become, becoming

become of

1 **what/whatever became of** *sb/sth*

if you ask what became of someone or something, you want to know what happened to them or where they are now: *Whatever became of Phil Goddard? I haven't heard from him for years.* | *What became of the painting is still a mystery.*

* SIMILAR TO: **what happened to**

2 **what is to become of** *sb/sth?*

what will become of *sb/sth?*

if you ask what will become of someone or something, you want to know what will happen to you or them in the future because you feel very anxious about it: *Maisie broke down in tears. "You can't go, Judd. What's to become of me and the children?"* | *Obviously these countries want to know what will become of the nuclear weapons on their soil.*

BED

bedded, bedded, bedding

bed down

1 **bed down**

to lie down in order to got to sleep somewhere, especially on the floor, on the ground, on a chair etc: *Angie didn't want to go home so late, so I told her she could bed down on the sofa.* | *About twenty people had bedded down outside the shop, waiting for the sale to start.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doss down** *BrE informal*

2 **bed down**

BrE if a new system beds down, it gradually becomes less new and strange and starts to work with fewer problems: *It will be necessary to wait about six months for the reforms to bed down, before we can comment on their success.*

3 **bed** *sb/sth* **down** | **bed down** *sb/sth*

to make a person or animal ready for the night: *It was Jim's job to look after the horses and bed them down for the night.*

4 **bed** *sb* **down** | **bed down** *sb*

AmE informal to have sex with someone – used when someone is proud of having done this: *He claimed to have bedded down over 20,000 women.*

B

B

bed out

bed out *sth* **bed** *sth* **out**

BrE to move young plants from where they have been growing indoors, and plant them outside in the ground: *Sow the seeds in March, and bed them out in the vegetable garden in May.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plant out** *BrE*

BEEF

beefed, beefed, beefing

beef up

beef up *sth* **beef** *sth* **up**

informal to improve something by making it stronger, more powerful, more effective etc: *Security has been beefed up for the President's visit. | The new mayor in Los Angeles wants to beef up the city's police force. | The government plans to beef up the current gun control legislation.*

beefed-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] stronger, more powerful, more effective etc than before: *a beefed-up version of the BMW 3 series*

BEER

be beered up

be beered up

BrE informal to have drunk a lot of alcohol, especially beer, with the result that you are drunk: *The England fans were beered up well before the match.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, be liquored up** *AmE informal*

BEG

begged, begged, begging

beg off

beg off **beg off** *sth*

to say politely that you cannot do something that other people want or expect you to do: *I wanted to have a quiet day, so when the opportunity arose to spend the day on the beach with friends, I begged off.*

beg off doing sth *Haney didn't feel too well, so he decided to beg off working that day.*

BELIEVE

believed, believed, believing

believe in

1 **believe in** *sth*

to think that a god exists or that a particular religion or belief is true: *Most English people still believe in God, even if they don't go to church. | People say they've seen aliens from other planets, but I don't believe in any of that.*

2 **believe in** *sth*

to support or approve of an idea or system because you think it is good or right: *I don't believe in all these silly diets. | 92% of those questioned said they believed in marriage.*

believe in doing sth *My grandfather had always been a vegetarian – he didn't believe in killing anything.*

3 **believe in** *sb*

to be confident that someone will be able to do something successfully, or that they are honest and good: *The people want a president that they can believe in.*

believe in yourself (=be confident that you are good at something or that you can succeed) *If you want to be an artist, you have to believe in yourself because no one else will.*

BELLY

bellied, bellied, bellying

belly up

belly up

AmE informal to move forward so that you are very close to something

+ to *A strange man bellied up to the bar and offered to buy Sarah a drink.*

BELONG

belonged, belonged, belonging

belong to

1 **belong to** *sb*

if something belongs to you, it is yours: *The boat belonged to one of the local fishermen. | Both sides are claiming that the island belongs to them. | Who does that house belong to now? | a ring that once belonged to Mary Queen of Scots*

2 **belong to** *sth*

to be a member of a particular group or organization: *The kidnappers are believed to belong to the Basque terrorist group ETA. | Did you belong to any clubs when you were at university? | Although they both belonged to the same family, they had very little in common with each other.*

3 **belong to** *sb/sth*

if something, especially power or responsibility for something, belongs to a person, country etc, they have it or are responsible for it: *Of course, the final decision belongs to the Prime Minister.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rest with**

4 **belong to** | *sth*

to come from or be connected with a particular time, place, or style: *The old lady seemed to belong to a different era. | For many people, having a racehorse belongs to the world of Rolls Royces and luxury yachts.*

BELT

belted, belted, belting

belt out

belt out | *sth* **belt** | *sth* | **out**

informal to sing or play a song on an instrument very loudly: *Downstairs a band was belting out a deafening selection of hits from the early sixties.*

belt up

1 **belt up!**

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to stop talking: *"For Christ's sake, belt up!" Barton said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut up**

2 **belt up**

BrE informal to fasten your seatbelt in a car or a plane: *The government have introduced a £500 fine for drivers who don't belt up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **buckle up** *AmE*

BEND

bent, bent, bending

bend down

bend down

to move your body forwards and down towards the ground, by bending it at the waist or knees: *George bent down and kissed the little girl on the cheek.*

+ to do sth *Suddenly I noticed a silver coin, and I bent down to pick it up.*

be bent on

be bent on

to have decided to do something and be completely determined to achieve it, especially something that involves violence or destroying something – used to show disapproval

be bent on doing sth *The terrorists seem bent on causing as much disruption as possible before the elections.*

be bent on revenge/vengeance *The family could not forgive the girl's killers, and were bent on revenge.*

bend over

bend over **bend over** | *sth*

to move the top part of your body forwards at the waist or shoulders: *He bent over his plate, eating hungrily. | These trousers are so tight I can hardly bend over!*

be bent over (=be in a position in which you are leaning forward at the waist or shoulders) *The woman was bent over, picking up fallen apples.*

BENEFIT

benefitted, benefitted, benefitting

benefit from

benefit from | *sth*

BrE formal if a house benefits from a particular feature, type of room etc, it has that feature or type of room in it – used in advertisements for houses and by people whose job is to sell houses: *The property benefits from gas-fired central heating, and a garage with space for two cars.*

BET

bet or betted, bet or betted, betting

bet on

bet on | *sth*

to expect or feel sure that something will happen, especially so that it influences what you decide to do: *Traders who had bet on a rise in share prices, lost money.*

bet on (sb/sth) doing sth *I think it's safe to bet on Dozier staying with his team, the Minnesota Vikings, this year.*

don't bet on it/I wouldn't bet on it *spoken* *"Do you think they'll let me work for them again?" "I wouldn't bet on it if I were you."*

* SIMILAR TO: **bank on, count on**

BEVY

be bevvied up

be bevvied up

BrE informal to have drunk a lot of alcohol, with the result that you are drunk: *After a couple of hours everyone was so bevvied up that they didn't know what they were doing.*

get bevvied up *We're all going out tonight to get bevvied up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, be liquored up** *AmE informal*

B

B

BID
bid, bid, bidding

bid on

bid on *sth*

if a company bids on a piece of work, it tries to get the work by offering to do it at a particular price, especially when it is competing against other companies: *Local companies have personal contacts and reduced delivery costs, which gives them an advantage when bidding on contracts.* | *Some people claim that there is discrimination against US companies wishing to bid on Japanese projects.*

BILL
billed, billed, billing

bill as

bill *sb/sth* **as** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to publicly describe someone or something in a particular way in order to advertise them: *The festival is being billed as the biggest of its kind in Europe.*

bill itself as *Disneyland bills itself as the happiest place on Earth.*

BIND
bound, bound, binding

bind over

1 **bind over** *sb* **bind** *sb* **over**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal if someone is bound over by a court or judge, they are given an official order to cause no more trouble and threatened with punishment if they do: *The brothers, aged 24 and 27, denied the offence but were bound over for six months.*

be bound over to keep the peace *Campbell was arrested and bound over to keep the peace for three months.*

2 **be bound over for trial**

AmE formal to be taken to a court of law in order to be judged to see if you are guilty of a crime: *Gugliatto, 35, was bound over for trial on charges of aiding an escaped criminal.*

bind up

bind *sth* **up** **bind up** *sth*

to wrap a piece of cloth around a wound, in order to stop it bleeding or to protect it: *Shelley washed the wound very thoroughly and bound it up with a clean dressing.* | *In the end Gareth had to sit down on the grass and bind his ankle up with rags.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bandage up**

be bound to

be bound to *sth/sb*

formal to have made a formal agreement or promise to obey something or someone: *I'm afraid that you have signed a contract and therefore you are bound to it.* | *Miller started the society, and its members were bound by oaths to him personally.*

be bound up in/with

be bound up in/with *sth*

to be so involved in a particular situation that you cannot think of anything else: *Joanna's too bound up in her own problems to be able to help us at the moment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be wrapped up in**

be bound up with

be bound up with *sth*

to be closely connected with a particular idea, activity, situation etc: *The history of the mill is closely bound up with that of the Williams family, who owned it from 1840-1947.* | *Religion and morality are inescapably bound up with one another.*

BITCH
bitched, bitched, bitching

bitch out

bitch *sb* **out** **bitch out** *sb*

AmE informal to criticize someone angrily: *When I called her she started bitching me out.*

BITE
bit, bitten, biting

bite back

1 **bite back** *sth* **bite** *sth* **back**

especially BrE to stop yourself from saying something or from showing what you really feel, especially when this is difficult: *Carrie had a powerful desire to say what she really thought, but she bit back the words.* | *Shiona bit back her anger. What on earth was Mackay playing at?*

2 **bite back**

to criticize someone strongly and angrily, or do something to them as a punishment, because they have criticized or done something unpleasant to you: *Be careful what you say – Maria's got a temper and she tends to bite back rather easily!*

+ at *Tony Blair bites back at his critics in an article in the News of the World.*

bite into

1 **bite into** *sth*

to press so hard against someone's skin that it hurts or cuts them: *Callum tightened his grip and she felt his fingers biting into her wrist. | The poor creature's collar was so small that it bit into its neck.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

2 **bite into** *sth*

especially BrE to use a large part of the money, time etc that you have available, so that there is much less left: *If we bought the car now, it would really bite into out savings. | Shares have slumped as the recession has bitten into profits.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eat into**

BLACK

blacked, blacked, blacking

black out

1 **black out**

to suddenly become unconscious: *The driver of the car had apparently blacked out at the wheel. | I felt as if I was suffocating, as if I was going to black out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass out**

blackout N [C]
when you suddenly become unconscious: *You'll have to go to the doctor if you keep having these blackouts.*

2 **be blacked out**

if a room, building, or city is blacked out at night during a war, all the lights are turned off and the windows are covered with dark material, especially so that the buildings cannot be seen by enemy planes: *During the NATO bombing, the city was blacked out and the cafes closed at 8 pm. | The windows were permanently blacked out, the rooms turned by war into dirty, dismal places.*

blackout N [C]
a period of time each night during a war when no lights can be used and windows must be covered with dark material, so that the buildings cannot be seen from the air: *Kitty had had enough of the blackout, the bombings and the shortages. | blackout curtains*

3 **be blacked out**

if a building, city, country etc is blacked out, there are no lights on in it because the electricity has stopped working: *From time to time the whole country was blacked out by power cuts. | Large sections of the capital were blacked out following the earthquake.*

blackout N [C]
when the electricity has stopped working so that there is no light available: *Due to a power blackout, their hotel was in total darkness.*

4 **black out** *sth* | **black** *sth* **out**

to cover something so that it cannot be seen, by using a dark mark or dark material: *The car's license plate had been blacked out with tape. | He was wearing a wig, and several of his teeth were blacked out.*

5 **black out** *sth* | **black** *sth* **out**

to prevent a television or radio programme from being broadcast, or a news report from being seen or read, especially because it is damaging to a government in some way: *The authorities in Belgrade blacked out news of what was happening in Kosovo.*

blackout N [C]
when a radio or television programme is prevented from being broadcast, or a news report from being seen or read: *Police ordered a news blackout while the negotiations to free the hostages were in progress.*

BLANK

blanked, blanked, blanking

blank out

1 **blank out** *sth/sb* | **blank** *sth/sb* **out**

to deliberately stop yourself from thinking about something or someone, because it is too painful or it upsets you to think about them: *I tried to blank out everything he had said from my mind. | After a moment he was able to blank out the pain.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **block out**

2 **blank out** *sth* | **blank** *sth* **out**

to cover or remove something written, so that it cannot be seen or read: *Every fifth word was blanked out, and the students had to try and fill them in. | The whole of the last paragraph had been blanked out.*

3 **blank out the screen**

if something blanks out your computer screen, all the information on it disappears: *If, after some time, you have not used your mouse or keyboard, then a control program blanks out the screen.*

4 **blank out**

AmE informal to be unable to remember what to say or do: *Melissa took one look at the exam and completely blanked out.*

BLANKET

blanketed, blanketed, blanketing

blanket with

1 **be blanketed with snow/mist/smoke etc**

if a place is blanketed with snow, mist,

B

smoke etc, it is covered with it: *Virtually all of Pennsylvania was blanketed with snow overnight.* | *The coast had been blanketed with fog in the morning, but it cleared a little later on.*

B

2 **blanket** *sth* **with** *sth*

BrE to put a lot of advertisements or large quantities of a particular product in a particular place: *The company blanketed bookstores nationwide with copies of the book.* | *WebTV has been blanketing the airwaves with ads.*

BLARE

blared, blared, blaring

blare away/out

blare away/out USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if music, a radio etc is blaring away, it is very loud, especially in a way that is annoying: *The people upstairs from us have their stereo blaring away at all hours of the night.* | *Military music was blaring out from the loudspeaker system.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blast out**

BLAST

blasted, blasted, blasting

blast away

1 **blast away** | **blast away** *sb/sth* | **blast** *sb/sth* **away**

to keep firing a gun continuously: *Schwarzenegger grabs a machine gun and blasts away until all the bad guys are dead on the floor.*

+ at *The farmer started blasting away at the crows with his shotgun.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blaze away**

2 **blast away** *sth/sb* | **blast** *sth/sb* **away**

to destroy something or kill someone by shooting at them or by using explosives: *In the film 'Magnum Force', Clint Eastwood blasts away a group of corrupt cops.* | *Small balls of Semtex, powerful enough to blast away doors, were smuggled into the prison.*

3 **blast away**

if a radio, band etc is blasting away, it is playing music very loudly, especially for a long period of time: *At 2am, the band was still blasting away.* | *The teenagers next door have their stereo blasting away all night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blare away**

4 **blast away**

especially AmE to strongly and publicly criticize someone or something – used especially in news reports

+ at *He blasted away at city officials, blaming them for the housing shortage.* | *Democrats are expected to blast away at the proposed budget cuts.*

blast off

blast off

if a spacecraft blasts off, it leaves the ground at the beginning of its journey into space. A spacecraft is a vehicle that can travel in space: *The space shuttle Columbia blasted off on Thursday on a 17-day flight around the moon.* | *Next week, a rocket carrying the first Austrian into space will blast off from Cape Canaveral.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off, lift off**

blast-off N [U]
the moment when a spacecraft leaves the ground to begin its journey into space: *We have 10 seconds until blast-off.*

blast out

blast out *sth* | **blast** *sth* **out** | **blast out**

if music blasts out or something blasts it out, it is very loud: *Rap music was blasting out from the car stereo.* | *The band was blasting out songs from their latest album.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blare out**

BLAZE

blazed, blazed, blazing

blaze away

1 **blaze away**

if a fire blazes away, it burns strongly and is very bright: *Soon the campfire was blazing away, and they began to make dinner.* | *The fire continued to blaze away, and there was nothing we could do to save the house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn**

2 **blaze away**

to keep firing a gun continuously: *Excited hunters sometimes start blazing away before they really know what they're shooting at.*

+ at *He pulled out a gun and started blazing away at the oncoming soldiers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blast away**

BLEND

blended, blended, blending

blend in/into

1 **blend in** | **blend into** *sth*

if something blends in, or blends into the things around it, it has the same colour, shape, or pattern as the other things around it, and is not easily noticeable: *Military*

vehicles are painted green or brown so that they blend into the surroundings.

+ with *The bugs were a yellowish-green colour that blended in with the grass.* | *The house is made of local stone, which blends in well with the surrounding countryside.*

2 **blend in** | **blend into** *sth*

if someone blends in, they seem similar to the other people around them, and do not seem different or unusual: *Speaking the local language will help you blend in and look less like a tourist.* | *In Los Angeles, it doesn't matter where you came from – after a while you just blend in.* | *It didn't take long for the immigrants to blend into the community.*

+ with *Philippe did his best to blend in with the other students.*

BLIMP

blimped, blimped, blimping

blimp out

blimp out

AmE informal to become fat: *During my first year in college I totally blimped out from eating so much junk food.*

BLISS

blissed, blissed, blissing

bliss out

bliss out | **bliss** *sb* **out**

AmE informal to feel very happy and relaxed, or to make someone feel this way: *After exercising, bliss out in our relaxing sauna.*

BLOCK

blocked, blocked, blocking

block in

1 **block** *sb/sth* **in**

to prevent a car or vehicle from moving by putting something, especially another car or vehicle, very close to it: *Don't park there – you'll block me in.* | *Her car was blocked in by a large furniture van.*

2 **block in** *sth* | **block** *sth* **in**

AmE to write or draw something that covers a space on a piece of paper: *She'd drawn the swimming pool, then blocked in a blue-green colour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill in**

block off

block off *sth* | **block** *sth* **off**

to put something across a road, path, entrance etc in order to prevent people from passing through: *Police blocked off the whole area after the shooting, looking for witnesses.* | *Canal Street is blocked off for the Statue of Liberty Festivities; no traffic will be allowed all weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close off, cordon off**

B

block out

1 **block out** *sth* | **block** *sth* **out**

to prevent light from reaching somewhere, or prevent something from being seen or heard: *The new lenses are supposed to block out harmful rays that can damage your eyes.* | *Heavy curtains blocked out all daylight in the dark house.* | *Huge skyscrapers blocked out the view.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut out, blot out**

2 **block out** *sth* | **block** *sth* **out**

to stop yourself from thinking about something unpleasant or painful: *Amy didn't tell anyone about the attack, and just tried to block it out of her mind.* | *Professional athletes often have to block out the pain in order to finish playing a game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut out, suppress, repress**

block up

block up *sth* | **block** *sth* **up**

to fill a narrow space or the entrance to something so that nothing can pass through: *The sink was blocked up and I had to call a plumber.* | *Crowds of people were blocking up the street in front of the federal building.*

* SIMILAR TO: **obstruct, clog up**

BLOT

blotted, blotted, blotting

blot out

1 **blot out** *sth* | **blot** *sth* **out**

to prevent light from reaching somewhere, or prevent something from being seen: *Clouds of black smoke blotted out the sky and the flames rose higher.* | *Yelena held her hand in front of her eyes to blot out the morning sun.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out, shut out**

2 **blot out** *sth* | **blot** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to stop yourself from thinking about something, especially something unpleasant or painful: *The former star said he used alcohol to blot out the pain.* | *She could never blot out completely what had happened and ended up committing suicide.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out, shut out**

B

blot up

blot up *sth* | **blot** *sth* **up**

to remove liquid from a surface by gently pressing a cloth, paper etc on it: *Cornell blotted up the excess water with a kitchen towel.* | *If oil has been freshly spilled, blot up as much as you can, then cover the spot with detergent.*

BLOW

blew, blown, blowing

blow away

1 **blow** *sb* **away** | **blow away** *sb*

informal if a performance, film, book etc blows you away, you think it is extremely good and you are surprised and impressed by how good it is: *Calvin blew away the audience with his outstanding performance as Shylock in 'The Merchant of Venice'.* | *When I first heard this record, I was blown away.*

2 **blow** *sb* **away** | **blow away** *sb*

informal to kill someone or something by shooting them with a gun: *Don't move or I'll blow you away!* | *Clint takes out his 45 Magnum and blows them all away.*

3 **blow away** *sb* | **blow** *sb* **away**

informal, especially AmE to defeat someone or something completely: *Franklin D. Roosevelt blew away presidential candidate Alf Landon in 1936.* | *The Italian team blew them away in a thrilling game.*

blow down

blow *sth* **down** | **blow down** *sth*

blow down

if the wind blows something down, or it blows down, the wind makes it fall to the ground: *High winds blew down trees, cut power, and blocked roads in Madison yesterday.* | *Seven people were hurt at the carnival when a big tent blew down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blow over**

blow in

blow in

informal, especially AmE to arrive unexpectedly: *Jim blew in about an hour ago – did you see him?*

blow off

1 **blow off** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **off** | **blow off**

if the wind blows something off, or it blows off, the wind moves it from its position, especially so that it falls down onto the ground: *The wind had blown off some of the tiles from the roof.* | *Part of the barn roof blew off in the storm.*

2 **blow off** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **off**

if an explosion or bullet blows something off, it removes it with great force: *The bullet blew off three of his fingers.* | *The front part of the jeep was blown off in the explosion.*

3 **blow off** *sb/sth* | **blow** *sb/sth* **off**

AmE informal to treat someone or something as unimportant: *Charles Barkley blew off the sexist remarks he made about female reporters.*

4 **blow** *sth* **off** | **blow off** *sth*

AmE informal to not do something that you had planned to do earlier: *Burleson blew off a dinner Saturday night and went to the movies instead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ditch**

blow out

1a **blow out** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **out**

to make a flame or a fire stop burning by blowing air on it: *Helen blew out the candles on her birthday cake.* | *The wind had blown out the pilot light on the stove.*

1b **blow out**

if a flame or fire blows out, it stops burning because of the wind, or because someone has blown air on it: *The candles had blown out in the wind.*

2 **blow out** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **out**

if an explosion or strong wind blows something out, especially a window, it breaks and falls down onto the ground: *Hundreds of windows were blown out by the force of the explosion, but fortunately no one was hurt.*

3 **blow out**

if a tyre blows out while you are driving, all the air suddenly goes out of it because it is damaged: *One of her tyres blew out and she was lucky not to have had an accident.*

blowout N [C]
when all the air suddenly goes out of a tyre because it is damaged: *A blowout at this speed could be really dangerous.*

4 **blow out** *sb/sth* | **blow** *sb/sth* **out**

AmE informal to easily defeat someone or something: *Our team blew out the Cubs 28–3.*

5 **blow itself out**

if a storm blows itself out, it ends: *The hurricane moved along the northeast before blowing itself out over the North Atlantic.*

6 **blow** *sb* **out** | **blow out** *sb*

BrE informal to disappoint someone by not meeting them or not doing what you have agreed to do: *If he blows you out again, tell him you've had enough.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up**

blow over

1 **blow over**

if an argument or unpleasant situation blows over, it is forgotten or no longer seems important: *I know she's angry now, but it'll soon blow over. | Rushdie stayed in hiding until the controversy about his book blew over.*

2 **blow** *sth* **over** | **blow over**

if the wind blows something over, or it blows over, the wind makes it fall: *The owners are afraid the trees will blow over on the house during the next big storm. | Rescue workers help passengers after a bus was blown over by strong winds.*

3 **blow over**

if a storm blows over, it ends: *The Weather Centre predicts that the snowstorm will quickly blow over.*

blow up

1 **blow up** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **up**

to destroy something using a bomb: *The two men are accused of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland in 1988. | Nato forces have blown up almost all the bridges. | An army bus carrying 10 soldiers was blown up by a land mine.*

2 **blow up**

to be destroyed in an explosion: *Investigators are trying to find out what caused the rocket to blow up in midair.*

3 **blow up** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **up**

to fill something with air or gas: *The tyre needs blowing up. Have you got a bicycle pump? | Come and help me blow up the balloons.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pump up, inflate** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **let down, deflate** *formal*

blow-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a blow-up object is one that you fill with air and is usually made of plastic or rubber: *a blow-up doll*

4 **blow up**

to suddenly become very angry and start shouting: *Why did he blow up like that? He's usually so calm. | Soon after our wedding, she started to blow up over the slightest thing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **explode**

blow-up N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
a sudden angry argument: *After our blow-up, Larry didn't speak to me for a week.*

5 **blow up** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **up**

to make a much larger copy of something, especially a photograph: *This picture is absolutely gorgeous – you should blow it up and hang it in the living room. | Jerry blew up a picture of himself and gave it to his girlfriend for Christmas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enlarge**

blow-up N [C]
a photograph or picture that has been made much larger: *The evening news showed a blow-up of a spy satellite picture taken over Cuba.*

6 **blow up**

if an angry argument or a difficult situation blows up, it suddenly starts to happen: *A diplomatic crisis has blown up over Nato's bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.*

7 **blow up** *sth* | **blow** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to talk about something in a way that makes it seem more important or more serious than it really is: *The story got blown up by the press.*

+ into *I don't know why you've blown this up into such a big deal – it was just a joke!*

blow sth up out of proportion *The whole thing is being blown up out of all proportion by the Western media.*

8 **blow up**

if a storm or strong wind blows up, it suddenly starts: *The sky's getting dark – it looks like there's a storm blowing up.*

BLUFF
bluffed, bluffed, bluffing

bluff out

bluff it out

BrE to lie or pretend that you do not know something, in order to avoid being punished for something wrong that you have done: *If she asks him who took the money, he'll just bluff it out and say he doesn't know anything about it.*

BLUNDER
blundered, blundered, blundering

blunder into

blunder into *sth*

to arrive somewhere or get in a difficult or dangerous situation by mistake: *The men took a wrong turn and blundered into a group of enemy soldiers. | Without realizing it, Karpov had blundered into a trap set by his opponent.*

BLURT
blurted, blurted, blurting

blurt out

blurt out *sth* | **blurt** *sth* **out**

to suddenly say something, without thinking

B

about it, usually because you are nervous or excited: *"I have to tell you, Mark," she blurted out, "I'm in love with you."* | *Rather than blurting the answers out, take some time to think before speaking.*

B

BLUSH
blushed, blushed, blushing

blush from

not blush from doing *sth*

to not feel too embarrassed or ashamed to do something: *The party has not blushed from promoting its leader as an idealized family man.*

BOARD
boarded, boarded, boarding

board out

board out *sb/sth* **board** *sb/sth* **out**

BrE old-fashioned to arrange for a child or pet to stay somewhere, usually by paying someone to look after them for you: *We'll have to board the cat out while we're on holiday.* | *The welfare agency boards out orphans until they are old enough to live independently.*

board up

board up *sth* **board** *sth* **up**

to cover part of a building, such as a window or door, with wooden boards: *Residents are boarding up their windows before the hurricane strikes.* | *After the 1989 earthquake, damaged buildings were boarded up or demolished.*

BOB
bobbed, bobbed, bobbing

bob up

1 **bob up and down**

to move up and down continuously: *Fans bobbed up and down, trying to get a better view of the band.*

2 **bob up**

to suddenly appear, especially after being hidden or not seen for a short time: *Kelly's head bobbed up from under the table when she heard my voice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pop up**

3 **bob up**

to suddenly appear and float on the surface after being under water: *A duck bobbed up out of the water in front of me.*

4 **bob up**

AmE if the price or level of something bobs up, it suddenly increases a little: *Gas prices bobbed up before the holiday weekend.* | *Interest rates are expected to bob up again soon.*

BOG
bogged, bogged, bogging

bog down

1 **get/become bogged down**

to become so involved in dealing with something, especially small details or less important things, that you cannot make progress or do the main thing that you want to do

+ over *Let's not get bogged down over small details.* | *The peace talks became bogged down over arguments about whether the terrorists should be allowed to keep their weapons.*

+ in *The French were losing territory, but they did not want to become bogged down in another Asian land war.*

2 **bog down** *sth* **bog** *sth* **down**

bog down

AmE to make something move, work, or happen less quickly and easily: *Snow and freezing rain have been bogging down traffic on Connecticut roads this week.* | *Bitter disputes between political parties have bogged the bill down in Congress.*

bog off

bog off!

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away: *Why don't you just bog off and leave me alone?*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *informal*

BOIL
boiled, boiled, boiling

boil away

boil away

if liquid boils away, it disappears and changes into steam because it has been heated for a long time: *All the water in the pan had boiled away and it was red hot.*

boil down

1 **boil** *sth* **down** **boil down** *sth*

to make information, a piece of writing, or a speech shorter and simpler by not including anything that is unnecessary: *The article is still too long – see if you can boil it down.*

+ into *Before the election, candidates will have to boil down their campaign messages into a few simple phrases.*

2 **boil down** | **boil down** *sth* | **boil** *sth* **down**

if food or liquid boils down or you boil it down, the amount of food or liquid is reduced because it has been cooked for a long time: *Add a lot of cabbage – it will boil down quite a bit.* | *Boil down the liquid until it becomes a thick red sauce.*

boil down to

boil down to *sth*

if a situation, problem, discussion etc boils down to something, that is the main part or cause of it: *Their arguments boiled down to a lack of trust in each other.*

it all boils down to sth *There are thousands of books on how to lose weight, but it all boils down to one simple fact: if the energy you consume is less than the energy your body burns, you will lose weight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come down to**

boil over

1 **boil over**

if a liquid boils over, it rises and flows over the sides of the container because it is being heated at a high temperature: *The milk's boiling over – quick, turn it off!* | *An hour later, I came back into the kitchen to find that the soup had boiled over and the roast had burned.*

2 **boil over**

if a situation in which people are angry boils over, they become very angry and often violent, and can no longer control their feelings or actions: *After years of frustration the people's anger finally boiled over.* | *Racial tension boiled over into violence in the streets of Los Angeles.*

boil up

1 **boil up** *sth* | **boil** *sth* **up**

especially BrE to heat liquid or food until it starts to boil: *Sit down and relax while I boil up some water for tea.* | *Should we boil up a big pot of rice to go with the vegetables?*

2 **boil up**

if angry feelings boil up inside you, you suddenly feel very angry: *She stared at him for a moment, anger boiling up inside her.*

3 **boil up**

if a quarrel or an unpleasant situation boils up, it suddenly starts to happen and becomes difficult to control: *A price war is boiling up between the US and Japan.*

* SIMILAR TO: **heat up**

BOLSTER

bolstered, bolstered, bolstering

bolster up

1 **bolster up** *sb/sth* | **bolster** *sb/sth* **up**

BrE to make someone feel more confident, especially by praising them: *He relies on Clare because she bolsters him up and tells him he's wonderful.*

bolster up sb's ego/morale *She thought she'd bolster up his ego a bit by asking for his advice.*

2 **bolster up** *sth* | **bolster** *sth* **up**

if you use something to try to bolster up an idea or argument, you use it to try to show that the idea or argument is true: *There's plenty of evidence available to bolster up this theory.* | *The lawyer referred to various other cases that bolstered up their argument.*

BOLT

bolted, bolted, bolting

bolt down

bolt down *sth* | **bolt** *sth* **down**

BrE informal to eat food very quickly, especially because you are in a hurry: *Charlie bolted down his breakfast and ran out of the house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wolf down**

BOMB

be bombed out

1 **be bombed out**

if people are bombed out, their homes have been destroyed by bombs: *Some people were completely bombed out and had nothing except the clothes they stood up in.*

of *We saw the very young and the very old, bombed out of their homes and suffering from shock.*

2 **be bombed out**

if a building or town is bombed out, it is destroyed by bombs: *People still remember that night, when half the city was bombed out.* | *Reed had started this school after the International College was bombed out.*

bombed-out ADJ
a bombed-out building or town has been destroyed by bombs: *the bombed-out Bosnian capital*

B

BOMBARD

bombarded, bombarded, bombarding

bombard with

bombard *sb* **with** *sth*

to ask someone a lot of questions, give them a lot of advice, send them a lot of letters etc all at once, especially in a way that makes them feel confused or annoyed: *Everyone crowded round and began bombarding Quinn with questions.* | *Today we are bombarded with advice on what to eat and what not to eat.* | *Even after moving away from the area, she continued to bombard Paul with love letters.*

BONE

boned, boned, boning

bone up

bone up

informal to learn as much as you can about something, in order to prepare for an examination, meeting etc

+ on *I'm very weak in my science subjects, so I'll really have to bone up on them.*

+ for *Yesterday Dole left for San Diego, where he will bone up for Wednesday's debate.*

BOOK

booked, booked, booking

book in/into

1 **book in** **book into** *sth*

especially BrE to go to a hotel where you intend to stay and give them your name or sign it in the hotel book: *We booked into the Savoy and then went out to a restaurant.* | *It was about 10 o'clock by the time we'd booked in.*

+ at *Let's book in at the hotel, and then go and have a meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check in/into**

2 **book** *sb* **into** *sth* **book** *sb* **in**

especially BrE to arrange for someone to stay at a hotel, have treatment at a hospital etc: *My secretary had booked me into The Howard Hotel, not far from Parliament Square.* | *I can't cancel the villa now – I've already booked us in!*

book sb in at sth *The doctor's booked you in at the West London Clinic.*

be booked up

1 **be booked up**

if a trip, concert, course etc is booked up, there are no more seats or places available for it because other people have already taken them all: *We'd hoped to go to the Caribbean, but all the flights were completely booked up.* | *The popular plays are always booked up well in advance.*

2 **be booked up**

informal if a person is booked up, they are busy and have no time to do something or to accept more work: *I had to refuse their invitation because I was already booked up.* | *Some of the top singers are booked up for years in advance.*

BOOM

boomed, boomed, booming

boom out

1 **boom out**

if someone's voice booms out, the person is speaking in a very loud deep voice: *"Come in," a voice boomed out, and the door opened automatically.*

2 **boom out**

if music or a noise booms out, it is very loud: *Music was booming out of a loudspeaker.* | *Suddenly the bells of the cathedral boomed out across the square.*

BOOT

booted, booted, booting

boot out

boot out *sb* **boot** *sb* **out** USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to force someone to leave a place, job, organization etc, or to tell them they cannot take part in an event, especially because they have done something wrong

+ of *Stephen's just been booted out of his apartment, because the landlady says he hasn't paid his rent.* | *Saxton and Davies were booted out of the Olympics for taking drugs.*

get booted out *The military President, Pierre Buyoya, got booted out in 1962.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick out, throw out**

boot up

1 **boot up**

if a computer boots up, it starts working and becomes ready to use: *The PC took a couple of minutes to boot up.*

2 **boot up** *sth* **boot** *sth* **up**

to make a computer start working so that it is ready to use: *It's always the same – you make some coffee, boot up the computer and sit down at your desk.*

B

BORDER

bordered, bordered, bordering

border on

1 **border on** | *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be almost the same as an extreme feeling, action, or situation, especially one that is bad: *The crowd pressed forward in a state of excitement bordering on hysteria.* | *His behaviour with some female members of staff bordered on sexual harassment.*

be bordering on the ridiculous/the absurd etc (=seem ridiculous, absurd etc) *Sometimes, government censorship borders on the absurd.*

* SIMILAR TO: **verge on**

2 **border on** | *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if one country or area borders on another, it is next to it: *the states that border on Texas* | *Kosovo, a province of Serbia, borders on Albania.*

BORE

bored, bored, boring

bore into

bore into | *sb*

literary if someone's eyes bore into you, they look at you very directly in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable: *The young man's cold angry eyes bored into her, and she felt a shiver run along her spine.*

BORNE

SEE **bear out**

BOSS

bossed, bossed, bossing

boss around

ALSO **boss about** *BrE*

boss | *sb* | **around/about**

boss around/about | *sb*

if someone bosses you around, they keep telling you what to do in a way that you find annoying because they do not have the right to do this: *I can't stand the way James bosses everyone around!* | *Leonore was good at bossing people about, and doing very little herself.* | *She would rather stay single than marry some pig who thought he could boss her around like a maid.*

BOTCH

botched, botched, botching

botch up

botch | *sth* | **up**   **botch up** | *sth*

to do something badly and carelessly: *The first lot of builders botched it up so badly that we had to start again.*

botched-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
BrE a botched-up job or piece of work is one that has been done badly and carelessly: *The decorating was a real botched-up job.*

botch-up N [C]
BrE something that has been done badly and carelessly

make a botch-up *The government has made a complete botch-up of its tax reforms.*

BOTTLE

bottled, bottled, bottling

bottle out

bottle out

BrE informal to suddenly decide not to do something that you had agreed or promised to do, because you are afraid or nervous – used especially to show disapproval: *You said you wanted a fight – it's too late to bottle out now!* | *The Blair government seems to be bottling out on its promises to ban fox hunting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chicken out**

bottle up

1 **bottle up** | *sth*   **bottle** | *sth* | **up**

to keep a strong feeling such as anger, worry, or unhappiness hidden and not talk about it or show it: *Writing the book was a way of expressing all the anger I'd been bottling up for years.* | *There's obviously something wrong but he bottles it up and I can't help him.*

keep sth bottled up (inside) *Tell me what's bothering you. Don't keep it bottled up inside.*

2 **bottle up**   **bottle** | *sth* | **up**

bottle up | *sth*

AmE to be unable to move forwards or make progress, or make it difficult or impossible for something to do this: *The bill has been bottled up in the Senate since September.*

BOTTOM

bottomed, bottomed, bottoming

bottom out

bottom out

to stop decreasing or becoming worse, especially before starting to increase or improve

again: *Most people believed that the fall in the value of the dollar had bottomed out.* | *House prices in California have bottomed out, and are expected to start rising in the near future.* | *A lot of jobs have been lost, but there are now signs that the recession is bottoming out.*

B

BOUNCE

bounced, bounced, bouncing

bounce around

1 **bounce** *sth* **around**

bounce around *sth*

informal to discuss ideas with other people: *I wanted to have a meeting so that we could bounce a few ideas around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bat around** *BrE*

2 **bounce around**

AmE informal to move frequently to different cities or towns: *My family bounced around a lot because my dad was in the military.*

bounce back

1 **bounce back**

to become successful again after failing or being defeated, especially quickly and in a determined way: *The company's had a lot of problems in the past but it's always managed to bounce back.*

+ **from** *Anatoly Karpov bounced back from his defeat, with a crushing victory in game seventeen.*

2 **bounce back**

to feel well or cheerful again after being ill, or after an unpleasant experience: *Suzie's been quite depressed since her illness, but I'm sure she'll soon bounce back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recover**

bounce into

bounce *sb* **into (doing)** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to force someone to decide to do something too quickly without thinking carefully about it, especially because there is very little time or other people want you to do it: *The Israelis say they don't want to be bounced into accepting a peace settlement by the United States.* | *She feels that she wasn't really ready to get married, but she was bounced into it by her family.*

bounce off

bounce ideas/suggestions etc off *sb*

to talk about your ideas with someone in order to get their opinion of them, especially as a way of helping you to make a decision about something: *It was great working with Rob. We could bounce ideas off each other and share our problems.*

BOUND

be bound up with

be bound up with *sth*

to be closely connected with a particular problem, situation etc: *Mark's problems are all bound up with his mother's death when he was ten.* | *The people of Transkei began to realize that their future was inseparably bound up with that of South Africa.*

BOW

bowed, bowed, bowing

bow down

1 **bow down**

to bend forward from your waist, especially when you are already kneeling, in order to show respect

+ **before** *Maria bowed down before the statue in the church.*

2 **bow down**

if you bow down to a much more powerful person, country, organization etc, you do what they order you to do, or let them do what they want, especially because you are afraid of them

+ **to** *Thatcher refused to bow down to the unions.*

bow out

bow out

to give up an important position or job, so that someone can take your place, or to stop taking part in an event or competition: *Mitterand stayed on until the presidential election, when he bowed out and left the stage to Chirac.*

+ **of** *Alan Macmanus bowed out of the tournament, after losing to Jimmy White.*

bow to

1 **bow to** *sth/sb*

to agree to do what someone else wants you to do, especially when this is not what you want

bow to pressure *The President reluctantly bowed to pressure from his advisers, and agreed to delay the proposed tax cuts.*

bow to sb's demands/wishes *In the end the government was forced to bow to demands from environmental groups for a ban on growing GMOs.*

bow to sb's authority/wisdom (=agree to do what someone wants because they are more important or know more than you) *In those days women were still expected to bow to masculine authority.* | *The customers tried the new model and liked it, so the company bowed to their wisdom.*

2 **bow to the inevitable**

especially BrE to accept that something is going to happen and cannot be avoided, instead of trying to stop it happening: *When the recession hit, Chen's company bowed to the inevitable and closed its doors.*

BOWL

bowled, bowled, bowling

bowl along

bowl along | **bowl along** *sth*

BrE to travel very quickly, smoothly, and easily, especially in a car: *Soon we were bowling along a narrow road, through gentle green countryside.* | *She looked like a filmstar, bowling along in her open-topped car.*

bowl out

bowl *sb* **out** | **bowl out** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE in cricket, if one team bowls out the team that is hitting the ball, they succeed in ending their period of play by getting all their players out

+ **for** *New Zealand took the lead over Zimbabwe, who were bowled out for 219 in Bulawayo.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dismiss** *formal*

bowl over

1 **bowl** *sb* **over** | **bowl over** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are bowled over by someone or something, you are very impressed by them because they are so beautiful, exciting, special etc: *When Fiona first met Mario, she was bowled over by his good looks and charm.* | *I remember reading the book, and being completely bowled over by it.*

2 **bowl** *sb* **over** | **bowl over** *sb*

to knock someone down to the ground, especially by running into them: *George came racing round the corner and nearly bowled me over.*

BOX

boxed, boxed, boxing

box in

1 **box** *sb/sth* **in** | **box in** *sb/sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are boxed in by other cars or other people, they are so close to you that you cannot move away: *When I got back to my car I found it was boxed in by a huge furniture truck.*

get boxed in *She ran most of the way on the outside lane, because she didn't want to get boxed in by the other competitors.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hemmed in**

2 **box** *sb* **in** | **box in** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

to prevent someone from doing what they want to do, by limiting them in some way: *Small businesses are boxed in by all sorts of silly rules and regulations.* | *Although she'd been married for only a year, Connie already felt boxed in.*

box off

box off *sth* | **box** *sth* **off**

especially BrE to put walls around a small area in a room, in order to separate it from the rest: *We're going to box off that corner and put in a shower.*

box up

box *sth* **up** | **box up** *sth*

to put things into boxes, especially in order to move or send them somewhere: *In the morning it took us two hours to clean the house and box up the empty bottles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **parcel up** *BrE*

BRANCH

branched, branched, branching

branch off

1 **branch off**

if a road, path etc branches off from another road or path, it separates from it and goes in a different direction: *Half a mile further on the path branches off, and goes down through fields to the sea.*

+ **to** *We took a minor road, which branched off to the left at Wiggen.*

2 **branch off**

to leave a main road and turn onto a smaller one: *Follow the road out of Ballycastle, and branch off at the sign for Kinbane Castle.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn off**

B

3 **branch off**

to start talking about something different

+ into *Then the conversation branched off into a discussion about movies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off**

B

branch out

branch out

to start doing something different from what you usually do in your business, job etc

+ into *Vass was the owner of a shipping company, who for some strange reason had branched out into the fashion industry.*

+ from *She has now branched out from translating work into writing her own books.*

branch out on your own *After five years of working for William Lee in London, Graham was looking for opportunities to branch out on his own.*

BRASS

be brassed off

be brassed off

BrE informal to feel annoyed, especially because you are tired of something that happens again and again

+ with/about *I'm really brassed off with the way Dan treats me – he doesn't seem to care at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be fed up, pissed off** *informal*

BRAVE

braved, braved, braving

brave out

brave it out

to stay and face a dangerous or unpleasant situation, rather than running away from or avoiding it: *A lot of people left Paris when the war broke out, but Elaine decided to brave it out.*

BRAZEN

brazened, brazened, brazening

brazen out *BrE*

brazen it out

to deliberately behave in a confident way when you are in a difficult or embarrassing situation, rather than appearing guilty or ashamed: *Hamilton tried to brazen it out, but in the end he was forced to resign. | It was, of course, quite scandalous for a woman to go alone to a single man's hotel room, but she decided to brazen it out.*

BREAK

broke, broken, breaking

break away

1 **break away**

to stop being part of a group, a political party, or a country, especially because of a disagreement or because you want to form another group, party, or country: *In 1920, the majority of socialists broke away to form the Communist party.*

+ from *After thirty years of bitter civil war, Eritrea broke away from Ethiopia.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split off**

breakaway ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a breakaway group is one that has separated from a larger group: *The Independent National Party was a breakaway group led by Colonel Johnson.*

breakaway N [SINGULAR]
when someone or something stops being part of a group, because of a disagreement or in order to form another group: *Webb helped to restructure the Football League, following the breakaway of the Premier League.*

2 **break away**

to suddenly move away from a person or group, often when they are holding you and trying to prevent you from going: *Anna attempted to break away, but he held her tight.*

+ from *As soon as Harry saw her, he broke away from the group he was talking to and came over to greet her.*

3 **break away**

to do something different from what you usually do, or from what is usual or expected

+ from *After the series ended, Glaser found it difficult to break away from his TV cop image. | Societies have to break away from the traditions of the past in order to develop and grow.*

break down

1 **break down**

if a vehicle or a machine breaks down, it stops working because there is something wrong with it: *I don't believe it – the photocopier's broken down again! | A truck broke down half way up the hill, causing a long line of traffic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **conk out** *informal*

breakdown N [C]
when a vehicle stops working while you are travelling in it, because there is something wrong with it: *That's the second breakdown we've had this month.*

broken-down ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a broken-down vehicle or machine is old

and has stopped working: *There was a broken-down car at the side of road, with smoke pouring out of it.*

2 **break down**

if a discussion, system, relationship etc breaks down, it fails because there are problems or disagreements: *According to the statistics, two out of three marriages break down and end in divorce. | Negotiations between the two governments broke down last year, when they were unable to reach an agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **collapse**

breakdown N [C,U]
when something fails because there are problems or disagreements: *a breakdown in communication | Marriage breakdown accounts for a large number of one-parent families.*

3 **break down**

to be unable to control yourself and start to cry, especially in front of other people

break down in tears *"You have to help me," O'Neil said, and he broke down in tears.*

4 **break down**

to become mentally ill because you cannot deal with all your problems or there is too much pressure on you: *When her husband died, she broke down completely and had to be looked after by her son. | You can't possibly work under this amount of pressure without breaking down in the end.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** *informal*

(nervous) breakdown N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
when you become mentally or physically ill because you cannot deal with all your problems or there is too much pressure on you

have a breakdown *Marty needs to relax more, or she'll end up having a nervous breakdown.*

5 **break down** *sth* | **break** *sth* **down**

to hit something such as a door or wall so hard that it breaks and falls to the ground: *Police broke down the door and searched the building.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smash down**

6 **break down** *sth* | **break** *sth* **down**

to separate something into smaller parts so that you can deal with it or understand it more easily

+ into *The project has been broken down into a series of tasks which can be carried out in stages. | The best way to deal with all this information is to break it down into categories.*

breakdown N [C]
an explanation of the details of something, divided into different parts, especially about the cost of something: *Can you give me a detailed breakdown of how much the whole thing would cost?*

7 **break down** *sth* | **break** *sth* **down**

to change someone's ideas or attitudes, especially when you think that they are wrong or prevent you from making progress: *We aim to break down racial prejudice through education and greater understanding of other cultures. | She had hoped that she would eventually be able to break down his coldness, but he remained as distant as ever.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overcome**

breakdown N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
when an idea or tradition ends or is ended: *the breakdown of traditional attitudes to work*

8 **break down** *sth* | **break** *sth* **down**

to get rid of something that prevents you from doing what you want, especially a situation or system that has existed for a long time

break down barriers *We must continue our efforts to break down the barriers that prevent our companies from competing freely in Europe. | Modern telecommunications are breaking down the age-old barriers of time and distance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overcome**

9 **break down** *sth* | **break** *sth* **down** | **break down**

if a substance breaks down, or something breaks it down, it changes as a result of a chemical process: *Bacteria break down the animal waste to form methane gas.*

+ into *Carbohydrates break down into sugar in the body.*

breakdown N [SINGULAR]
when a substance changes as a result of a chemical process: *This illness prevents the breakdown of certain proteins in the digestive system.*

break for

break for *sth*

AmE informal to suddenly run or drive somewhere, especially in order to escape from someone: *Lambert fell as Morton broke for the corner of the field.*

break in

1 **break in**

to get into a building illegally by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Nearly two months ago, thieves broke in while she was asleep and took all her jewellery.*

break-in N [C]
when people get into a building illegally

B

by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Five men were arrested after the break-in on Monday night.*

2 **break** *sb* **in** | **break in** *sb*

informal to make someone get used to doing a job or activity, especially by letting them do it a little and then gradually making them do it more: *New trainees are usually broken in quite gently – we don't want to frighten them away!* | *We'll do a short run today just to break you in, and then build it up over the next few weeks.*

3 **break in**

literary to suddenly say something when someone else is already talking, so that they cannot continue: *"This is all very interesting," Ottley broke in, "but how do I know it's true?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt**

4 **break** *sth* **in** | **break in** *sth*

to wear new shoes, boots etc for short periods of time until they become comfortable enough to wear all the time: *I don't think I'll wear these shoes to work until I've broken them in at home first.*

5 **break in** *sth* | **break** *sth* **in**

to train a young horse to behave well and to allow people to ride it: *David had bought the horse as a two-year-old, and broken her in himself.*

break in on/upon

break in on *sth/sb*

to interrupt what someone is doing, thinking, or saying, for example by suddenly entering the room or by starting to speak: *"Well? Have you decided?" said Robbie, breaking in on her thoughts.* | *Lee's voice broke in on the conversation. "They're here," he said.*

break into

1 **break into** *sth*

to get into a building or a vehicle illegally by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Someone broke into my car and stole the radio.* | *Thieves broke into the school and took a quantity of cash.*

2 **break into** *sth*

to suddenly start doing something – used especially in the following phrases

break into a smile/grin *Manion read the letter and his face broke into a smile.*

break into laughter/applause *The curtain came down and the audience broke into loud applause.*

break into tears/sobs *We waited until his train was out of sight, and suddenly my mother broke into tears.*

break into a run *Realizing that the man was following him, Steve broke into a run.*

break into a sweat *The room was hot and crowded and I felt myself break into a sweat.*

break into song *He had a marvellous voice, and would sometimes break into song while he was working.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burst into**

3 **break into** *sth*

to start to become involved in a new type of activity or business, especially when it is difficult to do this: *Kevin had worked as an editor for ten years, and was now keen to break into management.*

break into a market *The firm now wants to break into the US market.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get into, move into**

4 **break into** *sth*

to use a computer to illegally get or change information that is on someone else's computer: *Kyle Mitnick was arrested after breaking into computer networks in several states.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hack into**

5 **break into** *sth*

BrE to start to use money or food that you have been saving: *In order to pay for their daughter's wedding, they had to break into their savings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dip into**

6 **break into** *sth*

BrE to open a container of food or drink in order to eat or drink what is inside: *What do you think about breaking into another bottle?* | *We don't need to break into that packet – there's enough here.*

7 **break into** *sth*

BrE to pay for something using a piece of paper money because you do not have enough coins, especially a large note which you would prefer not to have to use: *Let me get the drinks – you don't want to break into a fifty pound note.*

8 **break into** *sth*

literary to interrupt what someone is doing, thinking, or saying, for example by entering the room, or starting to speak: *Hunter broke into their conversation. "It's David. He's been involved in some kind of accident."* | *"You've become very silent," Piers said, breaking into her thoughts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disturb**

break off

1 **break off** | **break off** *sth*

break *sth* **off**

if part of something breaks off, or you break

it off, it becomes separated from the rest: *One of the branches had broken off in the wind.* | *Ben broke off a piece of the chocolate and ate it.* | *It was a beautiful old jug, but the handle had broken off.*

2 **break off** | **break off** *sth* | **break** *sth* **off**

if talks between people, countries etc break off, or someone breaks them off, the talks stop suddenly before they have finished, especially because of a disagreement: *Negotiations towards a new contract broke off again in the summer and the strike continued.* | *Russian authorities broke off talks with the Chechen gunmen after they killed two hostages on Tuesday.*

3 **break off communication/contact/ relations etc**

to refuse to communicate with a person or country any more, especially because of a disagreement: *There had been an argument between the two brothers, and Ted had threatened to break off all communication.*

break off diplomatic relations *The US broke of diplomatic relations with Cuba.*

4 **break off** *sth* | **break** *sth* **off**

if you break off a romantic or sexual relationship with someone, you end it

break off an engagement *Keith became jealous of Angie's other friends, and in the end he broke off their engagement.*

break it off *I'd been having some problems with my boyfriend for some time, so I broke it off in the summer.*

5 **break off** *sth* | **break** *sth* **off** | **break off**

BrE if you break off something that you are doing, you stop doing it, especially suddenly: *Kulikov had to break off his holiday and return to Moscow to handle the crisis.*

+ from (doing) sth *She broke off from writing as soon as he came into the room.*

6 **break off**

to suddenly stop speaking, especially before you have finished what you wanted to say: *"I don't think ...," he broke off and smiled suddenly, seeing the expression on her face.*

break off with

break off with *sb*

BrE to end a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *She broke off with Peter last month.*

break out

1 **break out**

if war, fighting, fire, or disease breaks out, it starts suddenly: *In 1991 civil war broke out in Yugoslavia.* | *Firemen fought for hours to control the fire, which had broken out on Wednesday night.* | *Three prisoners were killed when fighting broke out in the jail.*

outbreak N [C]
when war, fighting, fire, or disease suddenly starts

+ of *In 1832 there was a serious outbreak of cholera in New York City.*

2 **break out**

to escape from a prison

+ of *Two dangerous robbers had broken out of jail and murdered a police officer.*

break-out N [C]
an escape from a prison: *Prison security has been severely criticized following a series of break-outs in recent months.*

3 **break out**

if a noise such as laughter or shouting breaks out, it starts suddenly: *As the crowd grew restless, angry shouting broke out.* | *The concert ended and for a second there was silence before the applause broke out.*

4 **break out**

to change the way you live or behave, especially when it is the usual or accepted way, because you feel that it limits you too much and you need more freedom

+ of *Both Matt and Angela wanted to break out of the traditional male and female roles.* | *Until she found a job and broke out of the cycle of poverty, Maritza's life was very hard.*

break out of the mould/mold (=do something different form the usually accepted style) *Groups like Blur are struggling to break out of the usual Britpop mould.*

5 **break out in spots/a rash etc**

if your skin breaks out in spots, a lot of spots suddenly start to appear on you skin, especially because of illness: *I woke up feeling terrible and found that I had broken out in hundreds of tiny red spots.* | *My arms and legs had broken out in a rash.*

6 **spots/a rash etc breaks out**

if spots etc break out, they suddenly appear on your skin: *Katy had a high temperature, and spots had broken out on her chest.*

7 **break out in a sweat**

to suddenly start to sweat (=lose liquid through your skin), because you are very hot, ill, or frightened: *The snake came slowly closer and closer and I broke out in a sweat.*

B

8 **a smile/grin etc breaks out**

if a smile or grin breaks out on someone's face, they suddenly start to smile: *As she read the letter, a smile broke out on her face.*

9 **break** *sth* **out** **break out** *sth*

AmE informal to get something out and prepare to use it: *Break out the cowboy boots and get ready to dance all night!*

break through

1 **break through** *sth* **break through**

to force your way through something, especially something that is blocking your way and stopping you moving forwards: *On Friday two thousand striking workers broke through a police barricade in order to protest outside the presidential office.* | *Owen broke through the Italian defence and scored a great goal.* | *After hours of digging the rescue team finally broke through and were able to get the child out.*

2 **break through** **break through** *sth*

if the sun or light breaks through, you can see it again after it has been hidden by clouds or mist: *At that moment the sun broke through, and the whole field was covered in light.*

break through the clouds/mist *By twelve o'clock it had stopped raining and the sun was just breaking through the clouds.*

3 **break through**

if the amount or number of something breaks through a particular level, it becomes higher than that level: *After the election, the level of unemployment broke through the 3 million mark.* | *The assets of the Newcastle Building Society have broken through the £1 billion barrier this year.*

4 **break through** *sth* **break through**

to find a way of dealing with a problem or a situation that limits what you or other people can do, especially one caused by people's behaviour or attitudes: *Women are finally breaking through the barriers that have held them back for so long.*

breakthrough N [C]
an important new discovery or development that helps you deal with or achieve something, especially when you have been trying for a long time: *a major breakthrough in the fight against the disease* | *The company's great breakthrough came when they won a big contract to produce steel for the American market.*

5 **break through**

literary if a quality, emotion etc breaks through, it begins to appear or be noticeable: *When Carson answered, Alison was surprised to hear a trace of emotion breaking through.* | *Even though the subject is a serious one, the writer's humour sometimes breaks through.*

break up

1 **break up** *sth* **break** *sth* **up** **break up**

to break into smaller pieces or parts, or to make something break into smaller pieces or parts: *There is a real possibility that the ice caps at the North and South Poles will start breaking up and melting.* | *Can you break up some of these sticks? They're too big to start a fire with.*

+ into *Oil floats on the top of the water and then breaks up into drops.*

break-up N [C]
when something breaks into smaller pieces or parts: *Accident investigators are still not sure what caused the break-up of the plane.*

2a **break up** **break up** *sth* **break** *sth* **up**

if a marriage breaks up, or if someone or something breaks it up, it ends: *Simon went to live in London when his marriage broke up, and only saw his children at weekends.* | *She actually accused me of trying to break up her marriage!*

break-up N [C]
when a marriage or sexual relationship ends: *It took her years to get over the break-up of her marriage.*

2b **break up**

if two people who are married or having a sexual relationship break up, they separate and the marriage or relationship ends: *We'd been together for three years before we broke up, so it was really hard.*

+ with *Did you know that Pat's broken up with John?*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up**

3 **break up** *sth* **break** *sth* **up**

if someone breaks up a fight, protest, etc, they stop it, especially by using force: *Ten people were injured in the fighting, which was eventually broken up by security forces.*

break up a demonstration *Police used tear gas to break up the demonstration,*

4 **break up**

BrE if schools, universities, or students break up, their classes end and the holidays begin: *Some schools have already broken up, but we've got another week.*

+ for *What date do you break up for the summer holidays?*

● OPPOSITE: **go back**

5 **break up** | **break up** *sth* | **break** *sth* **up**

if a meeting, party etc breaks up, or someone breaks it up, it ends and the people leave: *It was around six in the morning when the party finally broke up. | The meeting broke up and we still hadn't reached an agreement. | I didn't want to break the evening up by leaving too early.*

6 **break up** | **break up** *sth* | **break** *sth* **up**

if an organization, country etc breaks up or is broken up, it is divided into several separate parts: *Since the Soviet Union broke up, Belarus has had a hard time economically. | One way of creating more competition would be to break up and sell off the big state-owned companies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up**

break-up N [C]
when an organization, country etc is divided into several separate parts

+ of *the break-up of Yugoslavia*

+ into *the break-up of Aeroflot into several small airline companies*

7 **break up** | **break up** *sth* | **break** *sth* **up**

if a group of people who live or work together break up or something breaks them up, they separate and stop living or working together: *One of the things that causes families to break up is financial pressure. | The group had recorded ten albums before they decided to break up. | What do you think finally broke up the Beatles?*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up**

break-up N [C]
when a group of people who live or work together separate: *a family break-up | the break-up of the band*

8 **break up** *sth* | **break** *sth* **up**

to make something such as a journey seem less long and boring, by doing something different in the middle of it: *We stopped off in Cambridge in order to break up the journey.*

9 **break** *sth* **up** | **break up** *sth*

if you break up something that is all the same colour, shape, or pattern, you make it look more interesting by adding new colours, shapes etc: *The huge lawns at Barnsley House are broken up by the clever planting of shrubs and trees.*

10 **break it up!**

spoken used to tell two or more people who are fighting to stop fighting: *Break it up, you two, or you'll hurt each other!*

11 **break** *sb* **up**

informal, especially AmE if something breaks you up, it is so funny that you cannot stop laughing at it: *Ethan really broke me up with that story about the alligator.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up**

B

break with

1 **break with** *sth/sb*

to stop being part of a particular group of people or an organization, or to stop supporting someone, especially because you do not agree with their ideas any more: *In the early '80s, Shirley Williams and David Owen broke with the Labour Party and formed their own Alliance Party.*

+ over *Some Democrats have broken with Clinton over this issue.*

2 **break with** *sb/sth*

to end a relationship with someone, especially because you have had a disagreement with them: *Freddie broke with his family long ago, after his mother died.*

3 **break with tradition/the past etc**

to stop doing things in the way they were done in the past, and do them in a completely different way: *In 1940 Roosevelt broke with tradition and stood for a third term of office. | The new Sultan wanted to modernize his country, but he didn't want to break with the past completely.*

BREATHE

breathed, breathed, breathing

breathe in

breathe in | **breathe in** *sth* | **breathe** *sth* **in**

to take air, smoke etc into your lungs through your nose or mouth: *My chest hurts every time I breathe in. | Here's another exercise. Breathe in slowly and raise your arms above your head. | Twenty-seven people needed hospital treatment after breathing in smoke.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inhale** *formal*

breathe out

breathe out | **breathe out** *sth* | **breath** *sth* **out**

to let air, smoke etc come out of your lungs through your nose or mouth: *Hold your breath for ten seconds and then breathe out slowly. | George leaned back and breathed out heavily through his nose. | Animals breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exhale** *formal*

B

BREEZE

breezed, breezed, breezing

breeze in/into

breeze in | **breeze into** *sth*

to come into a place in a confident, relaxed, and cheerful way: *He just breezed into my office and told me he wanted a job.* | *I'd only just put the phone down when Nina Myskow came breezing in with a big smile on her face.*

breeze through

breeze through *sth*

to do something very easily and successfully, especially an examination or test: *At the age of nineteen Sheldon breezed through his final exams and came away from Oxford with a first class degree.* | *We all thought she'd never get through her initial training period, but she just breezed through it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sail through**

BREW

brewed, brewed, brewing

brew up

1 **brew up** | **brew up** *sth*

BrE informal to make a drink of tea or coffee: *Every two hours the men would stop work to brew up and have a cigarette.* | *I spent the day reading novels and brewing up endless cups of tea.*

2 **be brewing up**

especially BrE if trouble or a situation in which people argue or fight with each other is brewing up, it is starting to develop: *The CIA were aware that a civil war was brewing up in Nicaragua.*

3 **brew up** *sth* | **brew** *sth* **up**

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to secretly plan something that will cause trouble: *I knew that the kids were brewing something up but I wasn't sure what it was.* | *Racist organizations are brewing up mischief wherever they can.*

4 **brew up** *sth*

to make a mixture of drugs, medicines etc: *We found him in his laboratory, brewing up a strange concoction of psychedelic drugs.*

BRICK

bricked, bricked, bricking

brick up/in

brick up/in *sth* | **brick** *sth* **up/in**

to put a wall of bricks in the space where a window, door etc is, so that it cannot be used any more: *The house had been empty for years and all the windows had been bricked up.* | *Its previous owners had bricked in the old fireplace and put a gas heater there instead.*

BRIGHTEN

brightened, brightened, brightening

brighten up

1 **brighten up** *sth* | **brighten** *sth* **up**

to make a place look more attractive and cheerful: *A warm pink or yellow colour will brighten up a dark room.*

brighten the place up *I thought new curtains would brighten the place up a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up**

2 **brighten up** *sth* | **brighten** *sth* **up**

to make a period of time or a situation happier for someone: *It was a real joy to see the children again – you've no idea how it brightened up my day.* | *Natalie brightened up his life and made him feel young again.*

3 **brighten up**

to suddenly become more cheerful: *She brightened up as soon as she saw us.* | *"It's almost suppertime." "So it is," said Hubert, brightening up at the mention of food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up**

4 **the weather brightens up/it brightens up**

if the weather brightens up, the sun begins to shine and the sky becomes brighter: *If the weather brightens up, we could walk down to the beach.* | *It was really cloudy first thing this morning, but it seems to be brightening up a bit now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up**

BRIM

brimmed, brimmed, brimming

brim over

1 **brim over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a container is brimming over, it is so full of something that what it contains flows over the top: *Twelve large sacks were filled with corn until they were brimming over.*

+ with *Pots and containers brimming over with flowers are an indispensable feature of any garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overflow**

2 **brim over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary if someone's eyes or tears are brimming over, they start to cry even though they are trying not to show it: *Her lovely eyes were brimming over again, and he sat beside her*

and put one arm round her. | Don Pedro cried out, the tears brimming over and wetting his cheeks.

brim over with

brim over with *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary if someone is brimming over with confidence, happiness, excitement etc, they feel very confident, happy, excited etc: *By the end of the day Juliana was brimming over with confidence. | As she walked through the church, her heart brimmed over with love and adoration for Charles.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

brim with

1 **brim with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary if someone is brimming with confidence, happiness, excitement etc, they feel very confident, happy, excited etc: *Suddenly her eyes lit up, and she was brimming with joy at the thought of seeing Guido again. | young men from Harvard who arrived in Washington brimming with energy and enthusiasm*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

2 **brim with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary to be very full of something or contain a very large amount of it: *On the table was an enormous silver bowl brimming with strawberries. | Their garden was brimming with every imaginable variety of tropical flowers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

3 **be brimming with tears**

literary if someone's eyes are brimming with tears, they start to cry, even though they are trying not to show it: *His eyes were brimming with tears as he reached out to embrace her for the last time.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be full of tears**

BRING

brought, brought, bringing

bring about

bring about *sth* | **bring** *sth* **about**

to make something happen, especially a change or better situation: *The war brought about huge social and political changes. | Great improvements in public health have been brought about by advances in medical science.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cause**

bring along

1 **bring along** *sb/sth* | **bring** *sb/sth* **along**

to bring someone or something with you when you come to a place: *The exhibition is open to people of all ages, so bring along your family and friends. | We'd like to see your designs for the new theatre, so bring them along to the interview on Friday.*

2 **bring** *sb/sth* **along** | **bring along** *sb/sth*

AmE to train or help a person, team etc so that they become better at something: *"Our plan was to bring this team along slowly," said UCLA coach Andy Janachowski.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bring on**

bring around ALSO bring round *BrE*

● In British English people usually use **bring round**. In American English people always use **bring around**.

1 **bring** *sth/sb* **around** | **bring** *sth/sb* **round** | **bring around** *sth/sb* | **bring round** *sth/sb*

to bring something or someone to someone else's house, when it is not far away: *I'll ask the driver to bring the car around to your house. | We have a French visitor staying with us. I'd like to bring her round to meet your parents. | If you're going to be in this evening, I'll bring round the forms for you to sign.*

2 **bring** *sb* **around/round**

to persuade someone to change their opinion and agree with you or do what you want: *At first Joanna was unwilling to support the campaign, but in the end his arguments brought her around.*

+ **to** *Don't worry about Marius, I think I can bring him round to our way of thinking.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **win over**

3 **bring** *sth* **around/round** | **bring around/round** *sth*

to move among a group of people and give them something or take something from them, especially when serving them with food or drinks: *Waiters brought around sandwiches and glasses of iced Saratoga water. | The usually bring round a collection box during the last hymn.*

4 **bring** *sb* **around/round**

● In British English people use **bring round** in this meaning. In American English people use **bring around**.

to make someone become conscious again after they have been unconscious: *Amy had fainted, but we managed to bring her round with water from the cold tap.*

● OPPOSITE: **knock out**

B

B

bring around to
ALSO **bring round to** *BrE*

bring *sth/sb* **around to** *sth*

bring *sth/sb* **round to** *sth*

to gradually change the subject of a conversation or discussion, so that someone starts talking about the subject you want them to talk about: *It took her a long time to bring him round to the important question of their children's education.*

bring the conversation around/round to sth *Bertie was desperately trying to bring the conversation round to the topic of food and drink.*

bring back

1 **bring back** *sth/sb* | **bring** *sth/sb* **back**

to bring something or someone with you when you return from somewhere: *The ivory elephant was a souvenir that Winston had brought back from India.*

bring sb back sth *If you're going down to the store, would you bring me back a six-pack of beer?*

2 **bring back** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **back**

to start to have or use a law, system, method etc that was used in the past but has not been used recently: *They should bring back the death penalty for murder – at least that's what I think.* | *They're bringing back the old electric trams to help solve the city's public transport problems.*

+ to *Zyuganov's party would like to bring Communist rule back to Russia.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **restore** *formal*

3 **bring back** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **back**

to make a feeling or quality begin to exist again in a place, situation etc

+ to *It was hoped that the agreement would bring peace back to the streets of Beirut.* | *a contest that should bring back excitement to heavyweight boxing*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **restore** *formal*

4 **bring back** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **back**

to make someone remember or think of something that they experienced in the past

bring back memories *Hearing that song always brought back sweet memories of a certain night in Santa Cruz.*

bring it all back (=make someone remember everything about an experience) *"The film brought it all back to me," said 78-year old Jack Riley, who had fought in the war himself as a young man.*

5 **bring back** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **back**

to return something to the shop where you bought it, for example because you are not satisfied with it or you want to exchange it for something else: *If you don't like it, you can always bring it back.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return**

6 **bring back** *sb* | **bring** *sb* **back**

to give someone the job or the position of authority that they had in the past: *After two bad seasons Johnson resigned, and the directors voted to bring back the former manager, Alf Stephens.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reinstate**

7 **bring** *sb* **back** | **bring back** *sb*

to make someone who has just died become alive again: *I wish she would recognise the fact that Albert is dead and gone, and nothing can ever bring him back*

bring sb back to life *Kenna – full of hope – tried to bring him back to life by applying the magic herb known as moly.*

bring back to

bring *sb* **back to earth/reality**

to force someone to think about the real situation they are in, after a period when they were happily ignoring it: *Emily was still daydreaming about Italy and Guiseppe, when a sharp knock at the door brought her back to reality.* | *I'd been enjoying planning our holiday until Beryl brought me back to earth by reminding me of our debts.*

bring down

1 **bring down** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **down**

to reduce the number, amount, price, or level of something: *Clinton succeeded in bringing down the number of unemployed.* | *Competition between airlines has brought down fares dramatically.*

+ to *Our aim is to bring inflation down to 2.5%.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reduce, cut**

2 **bring down** *sb/sth* | **bring** *sb/sth* **down**

to remove a ruler or government from their position of power: *The Watergate scandal caused a political crisis and finally brought down President Nixon.* | *A defeat on this issue could bring down the government.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **topple**

3 **bring down** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **down**

to shoot at a plane, bird, or animal and make it fall to the ground: *An F117 bomber had been brought down by a Serb ground-to-air missile.* | *I held my rifle steady and brought down the stag with my second shot.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shoot down**

4 **bring down** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **down**

to fly a plane down to the ground safely, especially when there is a problem with it: *The pilot skilfully brought the Cesna down in a hay meadow by the river.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **land**

5 **bring down** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **down**

to move your arm or a weapon, tool etc quickly downwards, especially in order to hit something: *McGraw raised his axe and brought it down with a thud.*

6 **bring** *sb* **down** | **bring down** *sb*

to make someone fall to the ground, for example by holding onto them, kicking them, or pushing them, especially in a game such as football: *The goalkeeper had brought down Gareth Evans on the edge of the penalty area.* | *He ran after his attacker and managed to bring him down.*

bring down on/upon

● **Bring down upon** is more formal than **bring down on** and is mostly used in writing.

bring *sth* **down on/upon** *sb*

bring down *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

formal to make something bad happen to someone, especially yourself or your family, by behaving in a particular way: *His behaviour has brought down shame on all his family.* | *The demonstrators brought down upon themselves the anger of the military government.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bring on/upon**

bring forth

bring forth *sth*

formal literary to produce a particular result or reaction, or to make something happen: *I feel sure that such a generous offer would bring forth an enthusiastic response.* | *a tragic love affair that brought forth only pain* | *Each day brings forth fresh wonders.*

bring forward

1 **bring forward** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **forward**

to change the date or time of an event so that it happens earlier than was arranged: *There are urgent matters to discuss, so we have decided to bring forward the date of our next meeting.*

+ to *The wedding has been brought forward to the first Saturday in June.*

2 **bring forward** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **forward**

to officially suggest a new plan or idea so that it can be discussed by a committee, parliament etc: *The government has brought forward a set of proposals for dealing with juvenile crime.* | *Scientists are being invited to bring forward plans for research into alternative sources of energy.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put forward, propose**

3 **bring forward** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **forward**

technical to include an amount of money in a later set of figures or calculations: *The balance brought forward is £21,675.*

bring in

1 **bring in** *sth*

to earn a particular amount of money, or produce a particular amount of profit: *Paul brings in about $800 a month from his job at the local hospital.* | *Her books bring in about $500,000 a year.*

2 **bring in** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **in**

if a government or organization brings in a new law, rule, system, or method, they introduce it and start to use it for the first time: *The government is expected to bring in tough new laws on immigration.* | *Few companies will be willing to bring in the new technology unless it can be shown to reduce production costs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **introduce**

3 **bring in** *sb* | **bring** *sb* **in**

to get someone with special skills or knowledge to do something or take part in something, especially in order to help you deal with a problem

bring sb in to do sth *They brought in a team of experts to investigate the causes of the accident.* | *The former Wimbledon champion was brought in to coach the young players.*

+ on *When local police failed to find the killer, the FBI was brought in on the case.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **call in**

4 **bring in** *sth/sb* | **bring** *sth/sb* **in**

to attract new business, trade, customers etc: *The bank's offer of free financial advice has brought in thousands of customers.* | *an advertising campaign that is bringing in a lot of new business* | *Julia Roberts' new movie has been bringing in huge audiences around the country.*

5 **bring in** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **in**

to include or mention something in a piece of writing or a speech, especially for a particular purpose: *Try to bring in a few quotations from Shakespeare's plays to illustrate the points you are making.*

bring into

1 **bring** *sth* **into** *sth*

to add a particular quality to a situation or to someone's life: *Our aim is to bring more fun*

B

B

into children's education. | *She had contacted the dating agency in the hope that it would bring a little romance into her life.*

2 **bring** *sth* **into** *sth*

to talk about or include something in a conversation or discussion: *There is no need to bring a lot of detail into the negotiations at this stage.*

3 **bring** *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

to involve someone or something in a situation, especially an unpleasant situation that is not connected with them: *This is a purely political matter, so don't start trying to bring my family into it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drag into**

bring off

bring off *sth* **bring** *sth* **off**

to succeed in doing something that is very difficult: *It was an amazing victory, and the whole team brought it off together by training incredibly hard.* | *Larry's a brilliant negotiator, and he's brought off some big deals in his time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull off, carry off**

bring on

1 **bring on** *sth* **bring** *sth* **on**

to make the start of a pain, illness, or problem start to happen: *He complained that the noise and fumes from the engine always brought on a headache.* | *The company's troubles had been brought on by lack of financial planning.* | *He had suffered a heart attack, brought on by stress and alcohol abuse.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cause**

2 **bring** *sb* **on** **bring on** *sb*

BrE to help someone to improve their skills: *Teachers need to bring on the weaker students, and not just concentrate on their star pupils.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring along** *AmE*, **help along**

3 **bring on** *sth* **bring** *sth* **on**

BrE to make plants or crops grow faster: *The hot weather has really brought on the roses.*

bring on/upon

● **Bring upon** is more formal than **bring on** and is mostly used in writing.

bring *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to make something bad happen to someone, especially yourself or your family, by behaving in a particular way: *Gloria ran off with a married man and brought shame on the whole family.*

bring sth on yourself *By refusing to talk to the police he only brought suspicion on himself.*

bring it (all) on yourself *He doesn't deserve any sympathy. He brought it all on himself.*

bring out

1 **bring out** *sth* **bring** *sth* **out**

to produce a new product, book, record etc and make it available for the public to buy: *Sony is about to bring out a complete recording of the film music from 'Titanic'.* | *Since it was brought out last autumn, sales of the new software have been very slow.*

2 **bring out** *sth* **bring** *sth* **out**

to make a particular quality or taste more noticeable: *You can bring out the flavour of the vegetables by steaming them in a pressure cooker.* | *Becoming a father seems to have brought out the gentle side of his nature.*

3 **bring out the best/worst in** *sb*

to make someone's best or worst qualities appear in the way they behave: *There's something about driving a car that brings out the worst in me.* | *A crisis invariably brings out the best in people.*

bring out the romantic/poet etc in sb (=make someone behave in a way that is typical of a romantic person, poet etc) *It's such a beautiful place. It's guaranteed to bring out the romantic in him.*

4 **bring** *sb* **out**

to make someone less shy and more confident: *She's a shy girl and she needs friends – I hope going to college will bring her out.*

bring sb out of himself/herself *Rick's teacher has done an excellent job – she's really brought him out of himself.*

bring out in

bring *sb* **out in spots/a rash/a sweat**

BrE to cause spots etc to appear on someone's skin or to make them sweat (=lose liquid through their skin because they are nervous or hot): *I can't eat strawberries – they bring me out in a rash.*

bring sb out in a cold sweat (=make someone sweat because they are very frightened) *The very thought of appearing in court brought him out in a cold sweat.*

bring round

SEE **bring around/round**

bring round to

SEE **bring around/round to**

bring through

bring *sb* **through** | **bring** *sb* **through** *sth*

to help someone to deal successfully with a difficult time in their life or a difficult event or situation: *Both my children have brought me through extremely difficult times since my husband died.* | *It was a real crisis, but Alice's strong personality brought her through.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get through**

bring to

bring *sb* **to**

to make someone conscious again when they have been unconscious: *The sound of voices brought him to, and he suddenly found himself in a room full of strangers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring sb around/round**

bring together

1 **bring** *sb* **together** | **bring together** *sb*

to make people become friends with each other, especially people who are very different, or to make people have a much closer and more friendly relationship: *What was it that brought you two together? Was it your love of music?* | *At Atlantic College we aim to bring together young people of different cultures and backgrounds from all over the world.*

bring sb closer together *As it happened, the tragedy of our daughter's death actually brought us closer together.*

2 **bring** *sth* **together** | **bring together** *sth*

to make it possible to see or experience an unusual variety of things, by collecting or uniting them together: *The exhibition brings together some of Ruskin's finest architectural drawings.* | *Whiteread's work brings together a whole range of different styles and influences.*

bring up

1 **bring up** *sb* | **bring** *sb* **up**

to look after and educate a child until he or she is grown up: *After Ben's mother died when he was three, he was brought up by his grandmother.* | *Where will they find the money to bring up six children.*

be brought up to do sth (=be taught by your parents to behave in a particular way) *In my day children were brought up to respect the law.*

bring sb up (as) a Catholic/Muslim etc *When they adopted Lucy, it was agreed that she should be brought up as a Catholic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise**

upbringing N [SINGULAR]
the way that parents treat their children and the things they teach them while they are growing up: *Mike had a very strict upbringing.*

well-brought up ADJ
a child who is well brought up has been taught to be polite and to behave well: *a well-brought up little girl*

2 **bring up** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **up**

to mention a subject or start to talk about it during a conversation or discussion: *Why did you have to bring up the subject of money?* | *I shall bring this question up at the next meeting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise**

3 **bring up** *sth* | **bring** *sth* **up**

BrE to vomit something. If you vomit, food comes up from your stomach and out through your mouth because you are ill or drunk: *She rushed to the toilet and started bringing up her breakfast.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vomit** *formal*, **throw up, spew up** *BrE informal*

4 **bring** *sb* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to charge someone with a crime and make them appear before a court of law

+ before *Ben was brought up before the magistrates and accused of being drunk and disorderly.* | *The two men were brought up before the courts on charges of receiving stolen goods.*

bring upon

SEE **bring on/upon**

BRISTLE

bristled, bristled, bristling

bristle with

1 **bristle with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to have a lot of something, especially weapons or to be full of something, especially a quality: *The whole area was full of security guards, bristling with weapons.* | *Tomorrow they will play the South African Barbarians, a team bristling with international talent.*

2 **bristle with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal if someone bristles with an emotion such as anger or jealousy, the emotion is very strong and noticeable even though they are trying to hide or control it: *She tried to smile, but she was obviously bristling with jealousy.* | *Jay pushed back his chair, his red face bristling with rage.*

B

B

BROADEN

broadened, broadened, broadening

broaden out

1 **broaden out**

if a road or river broadens out, it becomes wider: *At last the road broadened out and I was able to overtake the truck in front.* | *Ahead of us the river broadened out, creating the effect of a lake.*

2 **broaden out** *sth* **broaden** *sth* **out**

broaden out

especially BrE to include a range of different subjects, or to make something do this: *I'd like to broaden out the discussion a little.* | *The course has broadened out and now includes a range of related subjects.*

BROWN

be browned off

be browned off

BrE old-fashioned to be annoyed about something or bored with it

get browned off *The boss kept asking him to stay late at work, and he was getting really browned off.*

+ with *It had rained non-stop for a week, and we were all browned off with it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be fed up**

BRUSH

brushed, brushed, brushing

brush aside

1 **brush aside** *sth* **brush** *sth* **aside**

to refuse to consider a suggestion or a demand because it seems unimportant or you do not agree with it: *Uncle Max brushed aside all suggestions that he was not well enough to go.* | *Their request for more funds was brushed aside.*

be brushed aside as impossible/unimportant etc *Several of us had our doubts, but these were brushed aside as unimportant.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore, dismiss**

2 **brush** *sb* **aside** **brush aside** *sb*

to refuse to listen to someone, because you do not think that what they are saying is important or correct: *Corbett opened his mouth to speak, but Bruce brushed him aside with a wave of his hand.*

brush down

1 **brush down** *sb/sth* **brush** *sb/sth* **down**

BrE to remove dirt or dust from your clothes by using a brush or quick light movements of your hands: *Carrie brushed down her coat, and got out a scarf to wear with it.*

brush yourself down *He picked himself up from the ground and brushed himself down.*

2 **brush down** *sth* **brush** *sth* **down**

to brush an animal, especially a horse, in order to remove dirt and dust from it: *Anne was in the stable yard, brushing down her pony.*

* SIMILAR TO: **groom**

brush off

1 **brush off** *sth* **brush** *sth* **off**

to refuse to consider or discuss something, in a way that shows you do not think it is important, serious, or correct: *You've upset a lot of people by what you said, and you can't just brush it off like that.* | *The secretary brushed off questions about her personal finances.* | *Coetzee contacted the police about it but they brushed him off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush aside**

brush-off N [SINGULAR]

if someone gives you the brush-off, they refuse to listen to you or pay attention to you: *If you write to and complain about the standard of service, you'll only get the brush-off.*

2 **brush** *sb* **off** **brush off** *sb*

to end a relationship with someone in a way that shows you do not care about them or their feelings: *Surely he didn't think that he could just brush you off with a phone call?*

brush-off N [SINGULAR]

BrE if you give someone the brush-off, you treat them in a way that shows that you want to end your relationship with them because you do not care about them any more: *He's been trying to give her the brush-off for ages, but she won't seem to take the hint.*

3 **brush yourself off**

to remove dirt or dust from your clothes using a brush or quick light movements of your hands: *She got up off the ground and started to brush herself off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush yourself down** *BrE*

brush off on

brush off on *sb*

BrE if a particular quality or attitude that someone else has brushes off on you, you are influenced by it and start to have it: *Her new friends were all very stylish, and some of it began to brush off on Emma.* | *They seem like a rough crowd – I hope their behaviour doesn't brush off on Tim.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rub off on**

brush up (on)

brush up (on) *sth* | **brush** *sth* **up**

to quickly practise and improve your skills or knowledge of something, especially in order to prepare for something: *I need to brush up on my Spanish before we go on holiday.* | *If you are thinking about a job change, brushing up on computer skills can be important.* | *England's players have just three days to brush up their technique before the next game.*

BUBBLE

bubbled, bubbled, bubbling

bubble over with

1 **be bubbling over with excitement/ enthusiasm**

to be very excited and pleased about something, and show it in the way you behave: *The children were bubbling over with excitement at the thought of visiting Disneyland.*

2 **be bubbling with ideas/suggestions**

to have a lot of ideas or suggestions about something: *It was an excellent meeting; everyone was bubbling over with ideas.*

bubble under

be bubbling under

if a record is bubbling under, quite a lot of copies are being sold, and it may soon be successful enough to be in the lists of the top 20, 30 etc most popular records for that week: *Meanwhile, bubbling under at number 32, here is Van Morrisson's new single.*

BUCK

bucked, bucked, bucking

buck up

1 **buck up** | **buck up** *sb* | **buck** *sb* **up**

to become more cheerful, or to make someone more cheerful: *Buck up, Jerry! Things can't be that bad.* | *TV comic, Bob Carolgees, is flying out to help buck up our troops, who are serving with the United Nations forces.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up**

2 **buck up** *sb* | **buck** *sb* **up** | **buck up**

to try harder and make more effort: *Deano needs to buck up a bit if he wants a hit record.*

buck your ideas up *BrE informal* (=used to tell someone to try harder to improve what they are doing): *You'll have to buck your ideas up if you want to go to university.*

3 **buck up!**

BrE spoken used to tell someone to hurry up: *Joyce shouted from downstairs, "Come on Henry! Buck up and get down here!"*

BUCKET

bucketed, bucketed, bucketing

bucket down

it's/the rain's bucketing down

BrE informal to be raining very hard: *It's been bucketing down all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down, tip down**

BUCKLE

buckled, buckled, buckling

buckle down

buckle down

to start working seriously or trying hard at something: *You've had a two week holiday, and now it's time to buckle down before your exams.*

+ to *The administration will be buckling down to tough negotiations over the next few months.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knuckle down**

buckle under

buckle under

to stop trying to do what you want to do, and do what other people want or expect, especially because of pressure from them: *I'd thought of going to university, but my family wanted me to stay at home and in the end I buckled under.*

+ to *The Irish Prime Minister accused the British government of buckling under to Protestant pressure.*

buckle up

buckle up

AmE to fasten your seatbelt around you to protect you in a car, plane etc: *About 68 percent of motorists and passengers buckle up when they're driving, according to recent federal studies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **belt up** *BrE*

BUDDY

buddied, buddied, buddying

buddy up

1 **buddy up**

AmE informal to try to be friends with someone, especially because you want them to do something for you

+ to *Julie's just buddying up to the boss so she can get promoted.*

B

2 **buddy up**

AmE informal if children buddy up, they choose a person who will be with them on a journey or during an activity

+ with *Stephen buddied up with Erik for the trip to the museum.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pair up**

B

BUDGE

budged, budged, budging

budge up

budge up USUALLY IN COMMANDS

BrE informal to move along in order to make space for someone else to sit down: *Budge up boys – make room for your Dad.*

* SIMILAR TO: **move up, shove up!** *spoken informal*

BUDGET

budgeted, budgeted, budgeting

budget for

budget for *sth*

to expect that you will have to pay a particular amount of money for something, and so have the money available: *We usually budget for a family holiday that will cost about two thousand pounds.* | *We hadn't budgeted for a new car this year.*

BUFF

buffed, buffed, buffing

buff up

buff *sth* **up** **buff up** *sth*

to make a surface shine by rubbing it with a dry cloth: *We rubbed on two coats of floor wax, and then buffed it all up to a shine.*

BUG

bug off

bug off!

AmE informal used to tell someone to go away and stop annoying you: *If that's Paul, tell him to bug off!*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, get lost** *informal*

bug out

1 **bug out**

AmE informal if someone's eyes bug out, they are open very wide and look big and round, for example because the person is surprised: *Paolo's eyes bugged out in amazement when he heard the whole story.*

2 **bug out** **bug** *sb* **out**

AmE informal to suddenly feel very frightened or surprised, or to make someone feel this way: *Hank was really bugging out after the accident.* | *The movie totally bugged me out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freak out**

BUGGER

buggered, buggered, buggering

● **Bugger** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

bugger about/around

1 **bugger about/around**

BrE informal to waste time doing unimportant things or behaving in a silly way: *Stop buggering about and get on with the job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around**

2 **bugger** *sb* **about/around**

BrE informal to treat someone badly by changing your plans a lot or wasting their time: *Our insurance company have really buggered us about – We can't get any money from them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around**

bugger off

1 **bugger off!**

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away, for example because you are very angry with them: *"Bugger off!" Lily shouted, "I don't want to see you!"*

2 **bugger off**

BrE spoken informal to go somewhere quickly or suddenly: *Jim wasn't feeling too well, so he buggered off home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *BrE spoken informal*

bugger up

bugger up *sth* **bugger** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to spoil something or do it very badly: *I really buggered up the first exam.* | *Don't give it to Emma. She'll only bugger it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up, cock up** *BrE informal*

BUILD

built, built, building

build around
ALSO **build round** *BrE*

build *sth* **around/round** *sth*

to base something on information, facts, or ideas, and develop it from there: *The plot is built around the themes of ambition and*

power. | *The prosecution's case was built around Firman's evidence. If the defense could prove he was lying, the whole case would collapse.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **build on/upon**

build in

1 **build in** *sth* | **build** *sth* **in**

to include a particular idea, quality, attitude etc in something, so that it is an important part of it: *All the best speeches have a certain amount of humour built in.* | *In order to meet the three-year production plan, we'll have to build in specific targets at regular intervals.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **incorporate** *formal*

built-in ALSO **inbuilt** *especially BrE* ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a built-in quality, feature etc is a natural or permanent one: *Older people tend to have a built-in resistance to change.* | *Do some societies have a built-in tendency towards extremism?* | *Every child is born with various inbuilt characteristics.*

2 **be built in**

to be made to fit permanently into a wall or into a room – use this especially about cupboards and furniture: *The kitchen cupboards are built in, and so are the cooker and fridge.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be fitted**

built-in ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
fitted or included as a permanent part of something: *built-in wardrobes* | *The car has central locking with a built-in alarm system.*

build into

1 **be built into** *sth*

to be made as a permanent part of a wall or other space: *Nowadays almost every bank has a cash machine built into the wall.*

2 **build** *sth* **into** *sth*

to make something a permanent or natural part of a system, arrangement, agreement etc: *With the educational reforms, more controls were built into the system.*

build on/onto

build on | **build on** *sth* | **build** *sth* **on** | **build** *sth* **onto** *sth*

to add another room or rooms to a building, in order to have more space: *The house was a little too small, but we decided to buy it and build on.* | *It used to have only two bedrooms, but they've built on a huge extension at the back.* | *A new kitchen had been built onto the back of the house.*

build on/upon

● **Build upon** is more formal than **build on** and is mainly used in writing.

1 **build** *sth* **on/upon** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to base something that you do on a particular idea, principle, aim etc which strongly influences you: *All his life he'd wanted to be a doctor; his hopes for the future were built on it.* | *Our ability to deliver an effective service is built on the principle of professionalism.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **base on**

2 **build on/upon** *sth*

to use your success or achievement as a way of becoming even more successful or achieving more: *The company has had a very good year, and they are hoping to build on that success.* | *We aim to help our students build on present understanding and to move forward into new areas of learning.*

build round

SEE **build around/round**

build up

1 **build up**

to gradually increase in amount, size, or strength: *The traffic going out of town really builds up after five o'clock.* | *We are worried about chemicals building up in the soil.*

+ to *The problem has been building up to its present level over about two years.*

build-up N [SINGULAR]
a gradual increase in something: *a military build-up* | *a build-up of pressure*

2 **build up** *sth* | **build** *sth* **up**

to make something increase in amount, size, or strength, especially gradually: *Don't do too much – you need to build up your energy for the match.* | *Members of nine European nations were meeting to discuss building up their armed forces in the Gulf.*

build up sb's confidence/trust *She's had a bad experience, and it'll take some time to build up her confidence again.*

3 **build up** *sth* | **build** *sth* **up**

to gradually succeed in getting something, especially by working hard or making a lot of effort: *The firm has built up an excellent reputation for speed and efficiency.* | *Over the years the gallery had managed to build up one of the world's finest collections of modern art.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **accumulate** *formal*

4 **build up** *sth* | **build** *sth* **up**

to develop and improve something such as a business or organization: *Jim Hunt was governor, and worked hard to build up the state's*

B

electronic industry. | *His grandfather started the business and built it up.*

5 **build** *sb/sth* **up** | **build up** *sb/sth*

to praise someone or something a lot, so that other people think they are very good, or in order to make them feel special and confident: *It's only an amateur production of the play, so I don't want to build it up too much.* | *In the dressing room, the coach, Greg Downs, was building his men up before the match.*

build-up N [SINGULAR]
a description of someone or something in which you praise them a lot and make other people think they are very special: *I thought the group were a bit disappointing, after the terrific build-up they'd had.*

6 **build** *sb* **up** | **build up** *sb*

to make someone healthier and stronger, for example by giving them plenty of good food: *My mother was always trying to build me up, telling me that I looked far too thin.*

build yourself up *You need to go and do some training and build yourself up a bit.*

7 **be built up**

if an area is built up, a lot of houses, buildings, and roads have been built there and there are very few open spaces: *When I went back fifteen years later, the town was incredibly built up and I hardly recognized it.*

built-up ADJ
a built-up area has a lot of houses, buildings, and roads in it and very few open spaces: *The speed limit is 30 mph in built-up areas.*

8 **build up a picture/idea/image/ profile of** *sth*

to gradually get information that helps you to know and understand more about something or someone: *The police are slowly building up a picture of what happened on that night.* | *Some animals build up a detailed idea of their surroundings, by using sound instead of light.*

9 **build up your hopes/build your hopes up**

to hope for something that is not likely to happen: *Don't build your hopes up – a lot of people have applied for the job, and you may not get it.*

10 **build up** *sb's* **hopes/build** *sb's* **hopes up**

to encourage someone to believe that something they want is going to happen, even though this is unlikely or uncertain: *Don't build her hopes up until we're sure we can afford it.*

build up to

build up to *sth*

to gradually prepare yourself to do something more difficult than you have done before: *"I may run for Congress," Bush said, "but it's something I'll have to build up to."*

build up to doing sth *John's already done a few short stories, and now he's building up to writing a novel.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **work up to sth**

build-up N [SINGULAR]
the time spent preparing for a particular occasion or event, especially when people talk or write about it a lot in newspapers, on television etc

+ to *the build-up to the general election*

build upon

SEE **build on/upon**

BULK

bulked, bulked, bulking

bulk out

bulk out *sth* | **bulk** *sth* **out**

BrE to increase the amount or size of something, by adding other things to it: *I added a couple of extra paragraphs to the article, in order to try to bulk it out a little.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bulk up**

bulk up

1 **bulk up** *sth* | **bulk** *sth* **up**

to increase the amount or size of something, by adding other things to it

+ with *His latest book has been bulked up with lots of pictures, but it isn't very well written.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bulk out** *BrE*

2 **bulk up**

AmE to become bigger because you have more fat or muscle on your body: *Loville has bulked up about seven pounds to a whopping 212.*

BULLY

bullied, bullied, bullying

bully off

bully off

if a game of hockey bullies off, it starts. Hockey is a sport played between two teams of eleven players, using long sticks and a hard ball: *The players were ready to bully off.* | *A new girls' hockey tournament bullies off next month at Stockton sports centre.*

BUM

bummed, bummed, bumming

bum around
ALSO **bum round** *BrE*

1 **bum around/round**

bum around/round *sth*

informal to travel around without any definite plans and usually with very little money: *Greg bummed around South America for a year between school and university.*

2 **bum around/round**

informal to spend time being lazy and doing very little: *I was still bumming round without any work, and I had no money at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **loaf about/around, slob about/around**

bum off

bum *sth* **off** *sb*

informal to get something that you need or want from someone, by asking them for it and not paying for it: *He had bummed the cigarettes off a group of Swedish students in Bonn.*

bum a lift/ride off sb (=ask someone to take you with them in their car when they are driving somewhere) *I expect Joe will be going to the party – I'll bum a lift off him.*

bum out

bum *sb* **out**

AmE informal to make someone feel sad or disappointed: *I don't want to bum you out, but I'm afraid we can't go to the beach this weekend.*

be bummed out
AmE informal to feel sad or disappointed about something: *Kevin was a little bummed out when his team lost again.*

bum round

SEE **bum about/around**

BUMBLE

bumbled, bumbled, bumbling

bumble around
ALSO **bumble about** *BrE*

bumble around/about

bumble around/about *sth*

to move around or do something in a disorganized or slightly confused way, without achieving much: *I could hear my father bumbling around in his room upstairs.* | *Jenny had been bumbling around the kitchen for hours, trying to get dinner ready.*

BUMP

bumped, bumped, bumping

bump along

bump along **bump along** *sth*

if the level or rate of something bumps along, it continues at the same low level or rate, without making much progress: *The standard of living for the average family has bumped along without showing any significant increase.*

bump along the bottom *In its latest report, the Bank of England said the economy was still bumping along the bottom.*

bump into

bump into *sb*

to meet someone that you know by chance, when you did not plan or expect to meet them: *Guess who I bumped into on holiday – Alex Barrett!* | *It's such a small town that you can't go anywhere without bumping into someone you know.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run into**

bump off

bump *sb* **off** **bump off** *sb*

informal to deliberately kill someone: *The rumour was that he had bumped his first wife off to get the insurance money.*

get bumped off *The bad guy usually gets bumped off at the end of the story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **murder, do away with** *informal*, **do in** *informal*

bump up

bump up *sth* **bump** *sth* **up**

informal to increase a price, rate, number etc, especially suddenly and by a large amount: *The government have really bumped up the price of petrol this year.* | *We had Mike on our team, which helped to bump up our score.*

bump up against

bump up against *sth*

to have to deal with something that limits what you can do, or causes unexpected problems for you: *Political parties find themselves bumping up against the federal spending limits for election campaigning.* | *Women trying to get to the top would suddenly bump up against a 'glass ceiling', once they got beyond a certain level.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up against**

B

BUNCH

bunched, bunched, bunching

bunch up

1 **bunch up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to move together and form a close group: *Mr Stephenson stopped suddenly, forcing the rest of them to bunch up behind him.*

be bunched up *The sheep were all bunched up together in a corner of the field.*

2 **bunch up** **bunch up** *sth* **bunch** *sth* **up**

to pull material tightly together in folds, or to form tight folds: *The dress was much too big, but she bunched it up with a belt round her waist.* | *Machine stitching can cause material to bunch up, so I usually sew it by hand.*

BUNDLE

bundled, bundled, bundling

bundle off

bundle *sb* **off** **bundle off** *sb*

to send someone somewhere quickly without asking them if they want to go: *She bundled the kids off to bed and sat down in front of the television.* | *In the holidays Amelia was always bundled off to stay with her grandmother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pack off**

bundle up

1 **bundle up** *sth* **bundle** *sth* **up**

to gather or tie a group of things together, especially in order to take them somewhere: *Hilary bundled up all her old clothes and carried them downstairs.* | *The newspapers were all bundled up, ready to be thrown away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **parcel up, tie up**

2 **bundle up** *sb* **bundle** *sb* **up** **bundle up**

to put warm clothes or blankets on yourself or someone else because it is cold: *My mother bundled me in the warmest clothes she could find.*

be bundled up *Lying in one of the doorways was a human figure, bundled up in a blanket.*

bundle up against the cold *We bundled up against the cold and went outside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

BUNG

bunged, bunged, bunging

be bunged up

1 **sth is bunged up**

BrE if a pipe, toilet etc is bunged up, it is blocked, with the result that it does not work properly: *The kitchen sink was bunged up with bits of food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block up**

2 **be bunged up**

BrE if a person is bunged up, it is difficult for them to breathe because they have a cold and their nose is blocked: *I had a headache, and I was so bunged up I decided to stay in bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be stuffed up, be stopped up** *AmE*

bunged-up ADJ
if your nose or ear is bunged-up, it is blocked and you cannot breathe or hear properly: *a bunged-up nose*

BUNK

bunked, bunked, bunking

bunk down

bunk down

to lie down in order to go to sleep somewhere, especially on a floor, chair, or in someone else's house: *You can bunk down on the sofa if you want.* | *A friend of mine has said that you can bunk down in her house for a couple of nights.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bed down**

bunk off

bunk off **bunk off** *sth*

BrE informal to stay away from school or work or leave early without permission: *We used to bunk off school, go round to my house, and smoke a few cigarettes.* | *In the end he got sacked for bunking off early.*

BUOY

buoyed, buoyed, buoying

buoy up

1 **buoy** *sb* **up** **buoy up** *sb*

to make someone feel more cheerful or confident, especially when they are feeling sad, shy etc: *"You look absolutely wonderful," Margaret said, in an attempt to buoy Emma up.* | *We felt really buoyed up by our success.*

buoy yourself up *A lot of people buy new clothes to buoy themselves up emotionally.*

2 **buoy up** *sth* | **buoy** *sth* **up**

to keep something at a high level, for example profits, prices, or the value of something: *The company's profits were buoyed up by a successful publishing venture.* | *The pound rose against the dollar, buoyed up by rumours of an increase in interest rates.*

3 **buoy up** *sth/sb* | **buoy** *sth/sb* **up**

to keep something or someone floating on the surface of water and prevent them from sinking: *Wooden floats on the sides of the raft helped to buoy it up.*

BURN

burnt or burned, burned or burnt, burning

burn down

1 **burn down** | **burn down** *sth* | **burn** *sth* **down**

if a building, town, or forest burns down or is burnt down, it is completely destroyed by fire: *The old Palace of Westminster burned down in 1834.* | *Hopper's Hollywood home was burnt down in a fire, and almost all the paintings were destroyed.*

2 **burn down** *sth* | **burn** *sth* **down**

to deliberately cause a fire in order to destroy a building, town, forest etc: *Gore had burnt down the house in order to destroy the evidence of his crime.* | *The men were threatening to burn down the capital if Colonel Rebu was not set free.*

3 **burn down**

if a fire burns down, the flames become smaller and weaker and produce less heat or light: *Gradually the fire burnt right down, leaving the room in near darkness.* | *The candles had burned down low, but still they went on talking.*

burn off

1 **burn off** *sth* | **burn** *sth* **off**

to remove or get rid of something by burning it: *Fires are lit to burn off the remaining forest and make way for agriculture.* | *The oil, which spilt into the Gulf of Mexico, was mostly burnt off in a fire.*

2 **burn off** *sth* | **burn** *sth* **off**

to get rid of unwanted fat or extra energy in your body, by doing physical exercise

burn off fat/calories *Regular exercise helps burn off excess fat.*

burn off energy *The children in the school yard were playing football, fighting, or simply running about to burn off all their energy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn up, work off**

burn out

1 **burn (yourself) out**

to work so hard that in the end you cannot continue working, because you have become tired, ill, or unable to think of any new ideas: *It's important that you learn to relax more, or you're likely to burn out.* | *Young stockbrokers often work eighteen-hour days, and burn themselves out before they are thirty.*

burned-out ALSO **burnt-out** ADJ
informal very tired or ill, or unable to think of any new ideas, because you have been working too hard: *At the end of the week I felt completely burned-out.* | *I didn't want to become one of those burnt-out writers with nothing left to say.*

burnout N [U]
when you are unable to continue working because you have worked so hard that you are very tired or ill, or unable to think of any new ideas: *More and more people suffer from burnout due to overwork.*

2 **be burned/burnt out**

if a vehicle or a building is burned out, the inside of it is destroyed in a fire: *The stolen car used in the robbery was found burnt out near Middlesburgh.* | *A chemical works was completely burnt out in one of the region's biggest fires for decades.*

burnt-out ALSO **burned-out** ADJ
[ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a burnt-out vehicle or building has been so badly damaged by fire that only the outside of it is left: *We passed a burnt-out truck at the side of the road.*

3 **a fire burns (itself) out**

if a fire burns out or burns itself out, it stops burning because there is nothing left for it to burn: *She'd fallen asleep in her chair and the fire had burnt out.* | *In remote areas of the country, the forest fires were allowed to burn themselves out.*

4 **burn (itself) out**

if an illness or a strong emotion burns itself out, it gradually becomes less severe or serious and then stops completely: *The doctor said the fever should burn itself out in a few days time.* | *At first Schramm's anger had been intense, but now he felt that it had burnt out.*

5 **burn out**

if a piece of electrical equipment burns out, it stops working because it has been used too much or has become too hot: *The electrical system in the car will burn out if you're not careful.*

B

burn up

1 **burn up** *sth* **burn** *sth* **up**

to use energy or get rid of unwanted fat from your body by doing physical exercise

burn up energy *The rate at which people burn up energy varies quite a lot between individuals.*

burn up fat/calories *Women tend to burn up calories less efficiently than men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn off**

2 **burn up** **burn up** *sth* **burn** *sth* **up**

to be completely destroyed by fire or great heat, or to destroy something with fire or great heat: *The satellite is expected to burn up in the Earth's atmosphere. | Anything getting that near to the sun, would simply be burned up. | The fire had burnt up forty acres of corn crops.*

3 **burn up** *sth* **burn** *sth* **up**

if someone or something burns up petrol, money etc they use a lot of it: *I changed my car because the old one burned up too much gas. | That girl just burns up money!*

* SIMILAR TO: **use up**

4 **burn** *sb* **up**

AmE informal to make someone very angry: *It used to burn me up when the kids at school would laugh at my name.*

5 **burn up** *sth* **burn** *sth* **up**

AmE informal to cover a distance very quickly, by moving or travelling very fast: *His Porsche really burns up the miles. | a couple burning up the dance floor*

6 **be burning up**

informal to be very hot, especially because you have a fever: *Ruth wiped away the sweat – although it was cold, she was burning up!*

burn with

1 **burn with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if you are burning with a particular feeling, you feel it very strongly: *Melissa was burning with curiosity, but it was obvious that it was not a good time to ask questions. | Burning with impatience, Janet waited for the train to finally stop.*

2 **burn with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if your face or cheeks burn with a particular feeling, they become hot or red because you feelings are so strong: *Willie smiled, his cheeks burning with excitement. | "I'm sorry, I forgot," Maria said, her face burning with shame.*

BURST

burst, burst, bursting

burst in

burst in

to enter a room very suddenly, interrupting the people who are inside or giving them a shock: *Mrs Andrews was just closing the post office when gunmen burst in.*

burst in on sb *What do you do if the kids burst in on you when you're in the bath? | A group of animal rights protesters burst in on the meeting and started shouting at the speaker.*

burst into

1 **burst into** *sth*

to enter a room very suddenly, interrupting the people who are inside or giving them a shock: *Two masked men burst into the house and shot the boys parents in front of him. | She burst into the room, waving a large brown envelope.*

2 **burst into** *sth*

to suddenly start doing something – used in the following phrases:

burst into tears (=suddenly start crying) *When I asked her what was wrong, she just burst into tears.*

burst into laughter (=suddenly start laughing) *To John's surprise, Sarah burst into laughter. "What's so funny?" he asked.*

burst into song (=suddenly start singing) *Musicals are ridiculous – people don't burst into song like that in normal life!*

burst into applause (=start hitting your hands together to show that you have enjoyed a performance, speaker etc) *At the end of her speech the audience burst into enthusiastic applause.*

burst into flames (=suddenly start burning) *Their car hit a wall and burst into flames.*

burst into bloom/flower/leaf (=when leaves or flowers suddenly appear on a plant) *In May all the flowers in the valley burst into bloom and the air is filled with their scent.*

burst out

1 **burst out laughing/crying**

to suddenly start to laugh or cry: *It was such a funny story – even the newsreader burst out laughing. | When she saw the dog lying there, she burst out crying because she thought he was dead.*

2 **sb burst out**

literary to suddenly say something in an angry or excited way, especially when you have been trying to avoid saying anything: *"It's all your fault!" she burst out angrily.* | *"For heavens sake!" he burst out. "Will you stop going on about it!"*

outburst N [C]
when someone suddenly starts speaking about something because they feel very angry, upset etc, especially when this seems rude or shocking to other people: *I'd like to apologise for my outburst at the meeting last night.*

burst with

be bursting with *sth/sb*

to have a lot of something, especially a particular feeling or quality, or to be full of people or things: *Helen, our teacher, was bursting with confidence and energy.* | *The 1996 vintage is delicious – bursting with flavour.* | *When we arrived at the concert, the hall was bursting with people.* | *He was a grey-haired dynamo of a man, bursting with ideas and good humour.*

BURY

buried, buried, burying

bury away

1 **be buried away**

if something is buried away somewhere, it is not easy to find or notice, especially because it is hidden by other things: *I found a beautiful old silver teapot buried away at the back of the shop.* | *a vague memory, buried away somewhere in his mind*

2 **bury yourself away**

to go somewhere quiet where there are not many people, often somewhere that is boring

+ in *It's not good for you burying yourself away in that dusty old library day after day.*

bury in

1 **bury yourself in** *sth*

to give all your attention to something, especially your work or something that you are reading very carefully, often in order to avoid thinking about something or to avoid talking to someone: *After Sylvie left him, he buried himself in his work and tried to put her out of his mind.* | *At breakfast Duncan buried himself in his newspaper and pretended to ignore her.*

2 **be buried in** *sth*

to be so involved in what you are doing, that you do not notice what is happening around you: *Alan was buried in his work, as usual.*

3 **bury yourself in** *sth*

to go somewhere quiet where there are not many people, often somewhere that is boring: *He expected her to give up her job in the city and bury herself in the countryside miles from anywhere!*

B

BUST

bust, bust, busting BrE
busted, busted, busting especially AmE

bust out (of)

1 **bust out**

AmE informal to escape from a place, especially a prison

+ of *They thought it was impossible for anyone to bust out of Alcatraz.*

2 **bust out** *sb* **bust** *sb* **out**

AmE informal to help someone to escape from somewhere, especially a prison: *Special forces were finally sent in to bust out the hostages.*

3 **bust out**

AmE informal to improve your situation or do something different from what you usually do: *Even as a child Scott couldn't wait to bust out, while his brother Brian was happy staying close to home.*

+ of *CBS busted out of its usual last-place standing to become the number two network.*

4 **bust out**

AmE informal to have to stop playing a game of cards, especially because you have lost all your money: *If you bust out of this game, we'll have no money to get a cab home.*

bust up

1 **bust up**

BrE informal if people bust up, they separate and end their relationship, especially after an argument: *I'm not with Jan any more – we bust up a while back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up**

bust-up N [C]
informal when people separate because of a disagreement: *Shelly moved to New York after the bust-up with her husband.*

bust-up N [C]
informal an angry argument: *McEnroe faces a big fine following his bust-up with the umpire at last week's final.* | *The Mail had run a sensational story about a bust-up between Morgan and his boss.*

2 **bust up** *sth* **bust** *sth* **up**

BrE to prevent something from continuing by interrupting it, often in a violent way: *Angry*

protesters bust up the meeting. | *Gloria was always trying to bust up their conversations – she wanted to be the only significant person in Jeff's life.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **break up**

B

3 **bust up** *sth* **bust** *sth* **up**

AmE informal to damage or break something: *Morgan busted up his arm in a skiing accident last Sunday.*

4 **bust up**

AmE informal to laugh a lot at something: *I bust up every time he tells the joke about the man on the bicycle.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crack up**

5 **bust up**

AmE informal to separate a large company or organization into smaller parts: *A Federal judge busted up AT & T in a ruling on monopolies.*

BUSTLE

bustled, bustled, bustling

bustle around/about

bustle around/about

bustle around/about *sth*

to move around in a busy way doing something, for example preparing a meal or tidying a room: *She watched him as he bustled about the kitchen.*

bustle around/about doing sth *Waitresses bustled around carrying trays loaded with food and drink.*

BUTT

butted, butted, butting

butt in

1 **butt in**

to interrupt a conversation or someone who is speaking in a rude way, by saying something when it is not your turn to speak: *The Minister complained that the interviewer kept butting in while he was trying to answer the questions.* | *Sorry, I don't mean to butt in, but if you want a lift, Sarah, I need to leave now.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **interrupt, butt in, muscle in**

2 **butt in**

AmE informal to become involved in a situation when you are not wanted, for example because it is private: *My neighbors are always butting in, wanting to know exactly what I'm doing.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **interfere**

buttinsky N [C]

AmE informal a person who tries to become involved in a situation when they are not wanted: *Dealing with Buttinsky is never easy. Be firm without being hostile.*

butt out

butt out!

AmE spoken informal used to tell someone to stop trying to become involved in a situation when they are not wanted, for example because it is private: *This doesn't concern you, so just butt out!*

butt up

butt up

to be in a position with one end or edge against something else, and no space between them

+ against/to *The tiles butt up against the door frame.* | *He bought a house for his parents with a garden that butted up to his own.*

BUTTER

buttered, buttered, buttering

butter up

butter up *sb* **butter** *sb* **up**

informal to say nice things to someone or try to please them so that they will do what you want: *You need his help, so butter him up a bit; get him on your side.* | *Top dealers are inviting big clients into their offices and buttering them up with expense account lunches.*

BUTTON

buttoned, buttoned, buttoning

button up

button up *sth* **button** *sth* **up**

to fasten all the buttons on a coat, shirt etc: *You'd better button up your jacket – it's cold outside.* | *His mother helped him on with his coat and buttoned it up for him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fasten, do up**

BUY

bought, bought, buying

buy in

1 **buy in** *sth* **buy** *sth* **in**

BrE to buy a large amount of something, especially food or drink, because you may need a lot for a special occasion or it may become difficult to obtain: *We'd better buy in some more beer for the party.* | *People are buying in stocks of food for the winter.*

2 **buy in** *sth* | **buy** *sth* **in** | **buy in**

BrE to pay someone else to do or produce something rather than doing it yourself: *They don't actually make computers – they just buy in components and assemble them.* | *More and more women are going out to work and buying in domestic help.*

buy into

1 **buy into** *sth*

informal to completely accept an idea or belief and allow it to influence you: *Ar around fourteen, a lot of boys buy into the idea that they are failures.* | *You don't have to buy into the 'If you have a bigger house, you have a better life,' theory.*

2 **buy into** *sth*

to buy part of a business or organization, especially because you want to control it: *British Airways' plans to buy into United Airlines have ended in failure.* | *American car makers wanted to buy into Japanese firms.*

buy off

buy off *sb* | **buy** *sb* **off**

to pay someone money or give them something that they want, in order to stop them causing trouble or threatening you: *In the US employers tried to buy off the unions by offering them higher and higher wage settlements.* | *Chamberlain and Daladier believed they could buy Hitler off by letting him have Austria and Czechoslovakia.*

buy out

1 **buy out** *sb/sth* | **buy** *sb/sth* **out**

to buy someone's share of a business or property that you previously owned together, so that you own all of it: *In 1965, ICI bought out Courtaulds' share of BNS, and set up ICI Fibres.* | *After the war, he bought out his brother Bill's interest in the machine shop.*

buyout N [C]
when a group of people join together to buy a company, especially one they used to work for or manage

a management buyout *The company is threatening to close the mine, but there are rumours of a management buyout.*

2 **buy out** *sb* | **buy** *sb* **out**

to pay money so that someone can leave an organization such as the army, or a sports team, before their contract has finished: *The first time he joined the army, his parents bought him out, and then he went and signed on again!*

+ of *The club wants to buy him out of his current contract with Inter Milan.*

buy up

buy up *sth* | **buy** *sth* **up**

to quickly buy as much as you can of something, especially because there is not a lot available, or because you think you can make money from it: *People are buying up stocks of food in case the storm hits their area.* | *Developers have been buying up villas on the island in anticipation of a tourist boom.*

B

BUZZ

buzzed, buzzed, buzzing

buzz around
ALSO **buzz about/round** BrE

1 **buzz around/about/round** *sth*

buzz around/about/round

if something, especially an insect, buzzes around, it moves around making a continuous noise, especially one that is annoying: *He was kept awake by a mosquito, which was buzzing around his hotel room all night.* | *Jet skis were buzzing around on the bay.*

2 **buzz around/about/round** *sth*

buzz around/about/round

especially BrE if thoughts or ideas are buzzing around in your head, you are thinking quickly about a lot of things and it is difficult to think clearly: *I've got a million and one things buzzing around my head at the moment.*

3 **buzz around/about/round**

to move quickly around a place doing a lot of jobs in a busy way: *The director buzzed around checking the cameras and lighting.*

buzz off

buzz off!

spoken informal to go away – used to rudely tell someone to go away because they are annoying you: *Why don't you just buzz off and leave me alone?*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, clear off** spoken, especially BrE

buzz round

SEE **buzz around**

C

CALL

called, called, calling

C

call after

1 **call after** *sb*

to shout something to someone as they are moving away from you: *"Please!" he called after her, "Don't leave me!" | The clerk called after him, but he took no notice.*

2 **call** *sb/sth* **after** *sb/sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to give someone or something the same name as another person or thing, often a famous person or thing: *He was called after St Francis of Assissi. | The gallery is called after Mrs Boehm's late husband, Edward Boehm.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **name after**

call around/round

1 **call around/round**

to go to someone's house for a short time to visit them: *Is it all right if I call round again some time next week?*

call around to do sth *Her 20-year-old son, Neil, calls around to visit her regularly.*

2 **call around**

especially AmE to telephone different people or businesses in order to get information: *Kurt had to call around for a while, but he finally found someone who can fix our washer today.*

+ to *I started calling around to different farmers to see what kind of prices I could get for fresh produce.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **ring round/around** *BrE*, **phone round/around**

be called away

be called away

to be suddenly asked to leave the place where you are working and go somewhere else, especially in order to deal with an urgent problem: *Peter is not in the office today – he's been called away to deal with a problem at our Birmingham branch. | The firecrew had to leave because they were called away to an emergency.*

call back

1 **call back** | **call** *sb* **back** | **call back** *sb*

especially spoken to phone someone again at a later time, or to phone someone who has already phoned you: *Can you call back later? Mrs Cohen is in a meeting at present. | Call me back as soon as you've got the results of the test.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **ring back** *BrE*, **phone back**

2 **call back**

especially BrE to return to a place at a later time, for example in order to see someone who was not available earlier, or to collect something or someone: *I'll call back on my way home from work. | If you call back this afternoon the suit should be ready for you. | The driver dropped her at the hotel and said he would call back for her in a couple of hours.*

call by

call by

BrE to stop and visit someone for a short time, especially when you are on your way to somewhere else: *I just called by to give Guy a message. | Dan called by today. He says his mother's not well.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop by, stop by**

call for

1 **call for** *sth*

to publicly demand that something should happen or be done: *Peace campaigners have called for an end to the bombing. | The Lawrence family are not satisfied with the police chief's explanation and are calling for a public enquiry.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **demand**

2 **call for** *sth*

if something calls for a particular ability, quality, or action that is what it needs or deserves: *jobs which call for specialist skills and qualifications | The company was facing a financial crisis, and the situation called for some tough decisions.*

this calls for a celebration *You didn't tell me it was your birthday – this calls for a celebration!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **require**

3 **call for** *sb*

BrE to go to someone's house to collect them because you are going somewhere together: *The film starts at 8.00 so I'll call for you at 7.30.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **collect, pick up**

4 **call for** *sth*

AmE to say that something is likely to happen, especially when talking about the weather: *The forecast calls for more rain.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **predict**

call forth

call forth *sth* | **call** *sth* **forth**

formal to make people have a particular kind of feeling or reaction: *What emotion is the author trying to call forth in the reader? | The recent power struggle in Moscow has called forth concern in Western countries.*

call in

1 **call in**

BrE to make a short visit to a person or place, especially when you are going somewhere else: *Is it all right if I call in to see you tomorrow after work?*

+ for *You're welcome to call in for a chat anytime you like.*

+ at *On the way home, he called in at the florist to buy some flowers for Sara. | To discuss your financial needs, call in at your local branch and make an appointment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop in, stop by, call around/round**

2 **call in**

to phone somewhere, especially the place where you work, to tell them where you are or what you are doing, or to find out news about something: *Daniel called in to say that he was going to be late. | Get a detective to follow the suspect, and have him call in every three hours.*

call in sick (=phone the place where you work to say that you are too ill to go to work) *On Monday morning she called in sick and said she'd be off all week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **phone in** *BrE*, **ring in** *BrE*

3 **call in**

to phone a radio or television programme to say what you think or to ask for advice: *Following last night's programme on cancer, thousands of people called in to ask for more information. | A Mrs Trellis from Birmingham called in to say that she thoroughly enjoyed the show.*

* SIMILAR TO: **phone in**

4 **call in** *sb* | **call** *sb* **in**

to ask someone who has special skills or knowledge to come and deal with a problem: *At 6am I called in Dr Minden, and he examined the patient.*

call in sb to do sth *Troops were called in to control the demonstration. | The company has called in environmental experts to carry out an investigation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send for**

5 **call in a loan**

to ask for a debt to be paid at an earlier date than was originally agreed: *He failed to make regular payments and the bank eventually called in the loan. | When the credit company collapsed, the loan was called in, causing huge problems for our business.*

6 **call in** *sth* | **call** *sth* **in**

if a company calls in a product, it asks people who have bought it to take it back to the store because there is a problem with it: *The manufacturer has called in the new model, launched last year, because of an electrical fault.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recall**

C

call off

1 **call off** *sth* | **call** *sth* **off**

to stop an event that has been arranged from taking place, especially because of a problem: *Diana had seriously considered calling off the wedding two days before her marriage. | The fight may have to be called off because the champion is suffering from a back injury.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cancel**

2 **call off** *sth* | **call** *sth* **off**

to stop doing something that you have already started doing

call off a search/strike *Rescuers were forced to call off the search because of bad weather. | The film crew called off a three-month strike after reaching a deal with their employers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **abandon**

3 **call off** *sth/sb* | **call** *sth/sb* **off**

to order an animal or person to stop attacking someone: *A fierce-looking dog rushed out of the house towards us – fortunately the owner called it off just in time.*

call on

1 **call on** *sb*

to visit someone for a short time: *He stopped in Chicago in order to call on an old friend.*

2 **call on** *sb*

AmE to ask someone in a class or group to answer a question: *Adrian looked down at his paper, but Mrs. Danielson called on him anyway.*

call on/upon

● **Call upon** is more formal than **call on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **call on/upon** *sb* **to do** *sth*

to formally and publicly ask someone to do something: *Russia called on NATO to end the bombing of Serbia. | The conference passed a resolution calling on Western governments to cut pollution levels. | I call upon the persons here present to witness the marriage of Sarah and James.*

2 **call on/upon** *sth/sb*

to use something or someone's help in order to achieve what you want: *Our staff are able to call on the latest technology to help them in their work.* | *The team has many other talented players whose skills it can call on.*

call out

1 **call out** | **call out** *sth*

to say something loudly so that other people will hear it: *Adam called out her name, but there was no reply.* | *"Hey," she called out to him as he got into his car, "don't forget to pick me up tomorrow."*

+ for *I thought I heard someone call out for help.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call, shout**

2 **call out** *sb/sth* | **call** *sb/sth* **out**

to ask someone skilled, such as a doctor, the army, or the fire service, to come and deal with a problem: *When the police failed to control the rioters, the Governor called out the National Guard.* | *Doctors often get called out in the middle of the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call in**

call-out ADJ
BrE a call-out service is one where someone goes to the place where someone lives or works in order to deal with a problem rather than the job being brought to them: *We operate a 24-hour call-out service for emergency repairs.* | *What's your call-out fee?*

3 **call out**

AmE informal to call a restaurant and order food to be delivered to your home or office

+ for *Let's call out for Chinese food tonight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **order out**

4 **call out** *sb/sth* | **call** *sb/sth* **out**

BrE if a union calls its members out, it tells them to stop working because of a disagreement with their employer. A union is an organization which workers join in order to protect their rights: *The union has threatened to call its members out on strike from midnight tomorrow.*

call out for

call out for *sth*

BrE if something calls out for a particular kind of treatment, that is clearly what it needs: *The company had been in the same family for decades, and called out for modernization.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cry out for**

call over

call over *sb* | **call** *sb* **over**

to ask someone to come to where you are, for example in order to talk to you or look at something: *Do you want to ask him? Shall I call him over?*

+ to do sth *The sunset was so beautiful – she called Dan over to the window to look.*

call round

SEE **call around/round**

call up

1 **call** *sb* **up** | **call up** *sb* | **call up**

especially AmE to phone someone: *Call me up as soon as you get the results.* | *If you have computer problems, call up the technician at the helpdesk.* | *Someone called up to say that they had seen a cat just like ours in their front garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call, phone up, ring up** *BrE*

2 **be called up**

to be officially ordered to join the army, navy, or airforce by the government: *When he was 21, Stan was called up for National Service.*

get called up *During the war, most men between 19 and 38 got called up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drafted** *AmE*

call-up N [C,U]
BrE when people are officially ordered to join the army, navy, or airforce: *Because of his illness, Kaye managed to avoid the military call-up.*

call-up N [C]
when someone is officially asked to take part in something, especially to play for a team in an important game: *Pears has played well this season and thoroughly deserves his call-up.*

3 **call up** *sb* | **call** *sb* **up**

to officially ask someone to take part in something, especially to play for a team in an important game: *Cole has been called up to play for England.* | *Manager Jack Charlton called him up because of doubts about the fitness of the other players.*

4 **call up** *sth* | **call** *sth* **up**

especially BrE if you call up information on a computer, you ask the computer to find it and show it on the screen: *The system will allow you to call up information about the latest share prices.* | *Rex called up the menu and clicked on 'New Message'.*

5 **call up** *sth* | **call** *sth* **up**

if something calls up an idea or memory of something else, it makes you think of it: *The music calls up memories of Paris in the early '50s* | *Each Chinese character calls up a mental image of the thing that it represents.*

* SIMILAR TO: **conjure up, evoke** *formal*

call upon

SEE **call on/upon**

CALM

calmed, calmed, calming

calm down

1 **calm down** | **calm** *sb* **down**

calm down *sb*

to stop feeling angry, upset, or excited, or to make someone stop feeling like this: *Calm down and tell me what happened.* | *Matt was trying to calm the baby down by singing to it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cool down, cool off**

2 **things calm down**

if things calm down, people become less busy or rushed: *It's always like this before Christmas – things will calm down after the January sales.*

3 **things calm down**

if things calm down, or if someone calms things down, people stop arguing or fighting, or stop being excited or upset: *Better wait till things have calmed down between those two before you go in.* | *The police arrived and managed to calm things down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **quieten down, settle down**

4 **calm down**

if the wind or weather calms down, it stops being windy or stormy: *The fishermen were waiting for the weather to calm down before they went out to sea.*

CAMP

camped, camped, camping

camp out

1 **camp out**

to sleep outdoors, especially in a tent: *We used to camp out in my grandma's garden when we were kids.* | *Hundreds of people camped out on the sidewalk, hoping to get tickets for the concert.*

2 **camp out**

to stay somewhere for a short time, because you cannot stay where you usually live: *The refugees camped out at St Peter's School in Northampton.* | *Foreign journalists camped out at the Intercontinental Hotel for weeks hoping for an interview with Ortega.*

camp up

camp it up

BrE informal if an actor camps it up, he or she deliberately behaves in an extreme way in order to make people laugh: *The best thing in the film is Alan Rickman, camping it up as the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.* | *We all remember David Bowie camping it up as Ziggy Stardust.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ham it up** *informal*

CANCEL

cancelled, cancelled, cancelling BrE
canceled, canceled, canceling AmE

cancel out

cancel out *sth* | **cancel** *sth* **out**

if one thing cancels out another, it has an opposite effect to it, so that the situation does not change: *Increases in tuition fees are likely to cancel out tax benefits for college students.*

cancel each other out/cancel one another out *Capital gains and losses can be expected to cancel each other out.*

CAPITALIZE

also **CAPITALISE** BrE

capitalized, capitalized, capitalizing
capitalised, capitalised, capitalising BrE

capitalize on

capitalize on *sth*

to use a situation or something good that you have, in order to get an advantage for yourself: *Ecuador has capitalised on its natural beauty to attract tourism.* | *TV chef Ken Yan has just opened another restaurant, and is hoping to capitalize on the popularity of his show 'Cook with Ken'.*

CARE

cared, cared, caring

care for

1 **care for** *sb*

to look after someone because they are too young, old, or ill to look after themselves: *She cared for her father all through his long illness.* | *As the average age of the population increases, there are more and more old people to care for.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look after**

well cared for ADJ
if a person or animal is well cared for, people look after them well: *The animals in the zoo are well cared for.*

2 **not care for** *sb/sth*

formal to not like someone or something: *I was fond of Uncle Geordie, but I didn't care for his wife.* | *She never cared much for Woody's sense of humour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dislike**

3 **would you care for** *sth?*

spoken formal used when politely offering someone something, especially food or drink: *Would you care for ice with your martini, Madam?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **would you like**

4 **care for** *sb*

old-fashioned to love someone in a romantic way: *I really love you, Celia. I've never cared for anyone else.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **love**

C

CARRY

carried, carried, carrying

get carried away

get carried away

to become so excited that you do something you would not normally do, especially something silly: *Andrew got a bit carried away and started dancing.* | *Mother seemed to have bought the entire contents of the store. "I saw so many nice things. I just got carried away."*

carry back

carry *sb* **back**

if something carries you back, it reminds you strongly of a time in the past

+ to *The smell of that perfume carried her back to her youth, and the first time that she had been to Paris.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take back**

carry forward

1 **carry forward** *sth* **carry** *sth* **forward**

to include an amount of money in a later set of figures or calculations: *$7000 is carried forward to next month's accounts.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bring forward**

2 **carry forward** *sth* **carry** *sth* **forward**

if you carry a plan forward, you succeed in making progress with it: *Mr Starr set up the program, then left others to carry it forward.* | *We are looking for a graduate with the ability to lead a team and carry work forward, within deadlines and to budget.*

carry off

1 **carry it off**

to succeed in doing something difficult, especially when there is a good chance that you will fail: *I was delighted to be offered the job, but I wasn't sure if I could carry it off.* | *She was sent to pose as a Russian diplomat and she almost carried it off.* | *The company's expansion plans are extremely ambitious, but director Paul Redstone believes that he can carry it off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull off, bring off**

2 **carry off** *sth* **carry** *sth* **off**

to win a prize: *Gwyneth Paltrow carried off the prize for best actress, for her role in the film 'Shakespeare in Love'.* | *The winner will carry off a cheque for £3000.*

3 **carry off** *sth* **carry** *sth* **off**

to look good in a particular piece of clothing or style: *Those long straight dresses are beautiful, but you have to be tall to carry them off.*

4 **carry off** *sth* **carry** *sth* **off**

to steal something – used especially in news reports: *Thieves broke into the museum, and carried off paintings worth millions of pounds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **steal, make off with**

5 **be carried off**

old-fashioned if someone is carried off by a disease, they die from it: *Little Horace Charles was carried off by pneumonia at the age of eight.*

carry on

1 **carry on**

to continue doing something: *Don't stop – carry on!* | *They carried on until all the work was finished.*

carry on doing sth *I waved at him, but he didn't seem to notice and carried on talking.*

+ with *Look, we're going to have to stop now. We can carry on with this in next week's class.*

carry on regardless (=continue doing something even though you know it is dangerous or there is a problem) *The doctor told Kevin to stop drinking, but he carried on regardless.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on**

2 **carry on**

BrE to continue going somewhere in the same direction or on the same road: *We carried on down the freeway for a while, enjoying the drive.* | *Carry on until you get to the traffic lights, then turn left.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on, continue**

3 **carry on**

to do the things that you usually do, even though you are very upset about something or are in a difficult situation: *After my wife died, I felt as if I just couldn't carry on.* | *Even though the country is at war, people still try to carry on as normal.*

+ with *The divorce was very traumatic, but I was determined to carry on with my life.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on**

4 **carry on** *sth* **carry** *sth* **on**

to continue something that someone else has

started: *He's hoping his son will carry on the family business.*

carry on a tradition *In 1814, Samuel Webb leased the mill to Stephen and Edward Blackwell, who carried on the tradition of cloth making.*

5 **carry on**

spoken to behave in a silly or excited way: *We won't get anything done if you two don't stop carrying on!*

a carry-on N [SINGULAR]
BrE informal behaviour or a situation that is silly and annoying: *He was out in the street, and she was throwing things out the window at him. What a carry-on!*

6 **carry on** *sth*

BrE if you carry on a particular kind of work or activity you do it or take part in it: *The authorities discovered that Stephens was carrying on a food business without a license.*

carry on a conversation *I hate it when she calls me at work – I'm always too busy to carry on a conversation with her.*

7 **carry on**

old-fashioned spoken to have a sexual relationship with someone – used to show disapproval

+ with *She's been carrying on with the milkman – I'm certain of it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have an affair**

8 **carry on**

informal to keep talking about something in a way that is annoying

+ about *I wish everyone would stop carrying on about it!* | *She suddenly noticed that Ruth was crying. "Oh Ruth! And here's me carrying on about my problems."*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** *informal*

carry out

1 **carry** *sth* **out** **carry out** *sth*

to do something that you have organized or planned – used especially in the following phrases

carry out an attack *During the 1970s, the group carried out a series of attacks around the world, including the massacre in 1972 at Lod Airport in Israel.*

carry out a/search/investigation *The Interior Ministry has ordered two of its chief inspectors to carry out an investigation into the death of a journalist whilst in police custody.*

carry out research/an experiment/a survey *Extensive research is being carried out, which will hopefully result in a cure for this disease.* | *A survey carried out last week found that 60% of Americans still supported the President, despite the scandal.*

carry out a task/job *Why is it that whenever I attempt to carry out a simple repair job at home it always seems to cause big problems?*

2 **carry out a threat/promise/intention**

to do something that you have said you will do, or intend to do: *Nicholson never carried out his threat to sue Hugo.* | *The government has failed to carry out its election promises.* | *Jane carried out her intention of going to Afghanistan, despite the war.*

3 **carry out instructions/an order**

to do what you have been told to do: *At his trial, Bousquet claimed that he had only been carrying out orders.* | *"I want two bodyguards in each car." Masala nodded then went off to carry out Whitlock's instructions.*

carry over

1 **carry over/be carried over**

if something from one situation carries over or is carried over into another situation, it continues to exist and affects the other situation

+ to *In the 1940s CBS radio set up a news broadcasting service of the highest quality, a tradition that was later carried over to television.*

+ into *His childhood was a story of pain, rejection, and violence, and these patterns carried over into his marriage.* | *Many of the old aristocratic values were carried over into the industrial age, so that trade and commerce were regarded as socially inferior occupations.*

carry-over N [SINGULAR]
something from the past that still continues to happen, or continues to affect the way things are done now: *South Korea maintained a curfew until the 1980s, a carry-over from the Korean War days.*

2 **carry over** *sth* **carry** *sth* **over**

to make an official arrangement to do something or use something at a later time

+ to *Up to five days' holiday can be carried over from one year to the next.* | *The Council is unable to carry over funds from one fiscal year to the next.* | *The game had to be cancelled due to bad weather, and will be carried over to next week.*

carry through

1 **carry through** *sth* **carry** *sth* **through**

to complete something successfully: *Educational reforms were proposed, but never carried through because of the economic crisis.* | *It is thought that a sum of about £5,000 will be needed to carry the scheme through successfully.*

C

2 **carry** *sb* **through**

carry *sb* **through** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if your determination or other people's support carries you through, it helps you to deal with a difficult situation: *The course was tough, but Amelia's determination and enthusiasm carried her through. | The support of his family had carried him through those difficult times.*

C

CART

carted, carted, carting

cart off

cart off *sb* **cart** *sb* **off**

informal to take someone away, especially to prison or hospital: *I collapsed on the pitch, and was carted off on a stretcher. | Kirk was arrested and carted off to prison.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

CARVE

carved, carved, carving

carve out

carve out *sth* **carve** *sth* **out**

to succeed in achieving or obtaining something for yourself, especially with difficulty: *New products like their electronic water filter have helped Kenwood carve out a bigger share of the UK market.*

carve out a career *Comedian Keith Allen has carved out a successful career as a straight actor, appearing in several acclaimed TV dramas.*

carve out a niche (=find an activity or type of business where you are successful) *Rank's attempt to carve out a niche in the US market failed because his films were too slow for American tastes.*

carve up

1 **carve up** *sth* **carve** *sth* **up**

to cut cooked meat into pieces: *Dad carved up the turkey.*

2 **carve up** *sth* **carve** *sth* **up**

to divide land into smaller parts – used to show disapproval: *Hitler and Stalin carved up Poland and the Baltic states between them. | Much of the English countryside has been destroyed, carved up by ugly motorways.*

3 **carve** *sb* **up** **carve up** *sb*

BrE informal to drive past another car going in the same direction, then turn in front of it too quickly, so that it has to slow down suddenly: *Some idiot carved me up on the motorway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut up**

4 **carve** *sb* **up** **carve up** *sb*

informal to seriously wound someone with a knife: *A couple of years ago five gang members got carved up in a fight outside a pub.*

CASH

cashed, cashed, cashing

cash in

cash in *sth* **cash** *sth* **in**

to exchange something such as shares for their value in money: *He cashed in all his bonds and his insurance policy to raise the money to buy a boat.*

cash in on

cash in on *sth*

to make a profit from a situation or get an advantage from it, especially in a way that other people think is unfair or dishonest: *Criminals should not be allowed to cash in on their crimes by selling their life stories to film-makers. | The bookshops were suddenly full of books about Princess Diana, all hoping to cash in on the princess's tragic death.*

cash out

1 **cash out**

AmE to count all the money taken by a shop or business at the end of a day, in order to check that it is the correct amount: *It's time to cash out and lock up.*

2 **cash out**

AmE to sell something valuable and get all the money for it immediately: *Argentine stocks fell as some local investors cashed out.*

cash up

cash up

BrE to count all the money taken by a shop or business at the end of the day, in order to check that it is the correct amount: *Let's cash up and then we can go home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cash out** *AmE*

CAST

cast, cast, casting

cast around/about for ALSO cast round for *BrE*

1 **cast around/about/round for** *sth*

to try to think of something to do or say, especially when this is difficult and you need to think of something quickly: *"Where's your homework, Jackie?" Jackie cast around for an excuse. | He cleared his throat, casting about for something to say.*

2 **cast around/about/round for** *sb/sth*

to try to find someone or something, especially when this is difficult: *Meanwhile the bank has been casting around for a new chief executive.* | *Miles suddenly felt faint, and cast around for a chair.*

cast aside

1 **cast aside** *sb/sth* **cast** *sb/sth* **aside**

formal to get rid of someone or something because you do not like them or need them any more: *When Henry became King, he cast aside his former friends.* | *Casting aside his military ambitions, Von Langen now launched himself on a political career.*

2 **cast aside** *sth* **cast** *sth* **aside**

formal to get rid of negative feelings: *Peace campaigners hope that one day Catholics and Protestants will cast aside centuries of hostility, and live together in peace.* | *Every year thousands of northern Europeans cast their inhibitions aside, and head for Greece's nudist beaches.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cast off**

be cast away

be cast away

to be left on an island where there are no other people, because your ship has sunk: *If you were cast away on a desert island, do you think you'd be able to survive?*

castaway N [C]
someone who has been left on an island where there are no other people, because their ship has sunk: *In stories the castaway always puts a message in a bottle and throws it out to sea.*

cast back

cast your mind back

to try to remember something that happened in the past

+ to *If you cast your mind back to your school chemistry lessons, you may recall that a 'catalyst' is a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction.*

cast down

1 **be cast down**

formal to be sad and upset because something bad has happened: *Churchill was obviously cast down by the news of this defeat.* | *"What is the matter?" asked Betty anxiously. She couldn't remember ever seeing Lydia so miserable and cast down.*

downcast ADJ
sad and upset because something bad has happened: *the sad, downcast faces of disappointed men*

2 **cast your eyes/a glance down**

formal to look down, especially because you are shy or ashamed: *Diana cast her eyes down demurely and started blushing.* | *She cast a glance down at the table to avoid his stare.*

3 **cast down** *sth* **cast** *sth* **down**

old-fashioned formal to destroy something completely: *All across the continent, earthquakes cast down the cities and levelled the mountains.*

cast off

1 **cast off** *sth* **cast** *sth* **off**

formal to get rid of something because you do not need it any more, or because it is stopping you from making progress: *It was time to grow up, time to cast off childish things.* | *Under colonial rule, the people had been encouraged to cast off their old traditions and adopt a western lifestyle.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cast aside**

cast-offs N [PLURAL]
clothes that you do not wear any more and give to someone else: *When I was a kid I always had to wear my older brother's cast-offs.*

2 **cast off**

to untie the rope that fastens your boat to the shore, so that you can sail away: *It was perfect sailing weather. We cast off from San Diego and set sail for the Philippine Islands.*

3 **cast off** **cast off** *sth* **cast** *sth* **off**

to finish something you have been knitting by taking the last stitches off the needle in a way that stops it from coming undone. When you knit, you make something out of wool using two long needles: *Knit three rows in plain knitting. Cast off all stitches. Cut off wool.*

● COMPARE: **cast on**

cast on

cast on **cast on** *sth* **cast** *sth* **on**

to start something that you are knitting by making the first stitches on the needle. When you knit, you make something out of wool using two long needles: *Cast on and knit a few rows of stocking stitch in your main yarn.*

● COMPARE: **cast off**

cast out

1 **cast out** *sb* **cast** *sb* **out**

formal to force someone to leave a place, especially the place where they live, because you disapprove of them or something they have done: *He had been cast out by his family when they discovered that he was gay.*

+ **of** *Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden after eating the forbidden fruit.*

outcast N [C]
someone who is not accepted by the other people in their society: *In these health-conscious times, smokers are often treated like social outcasts.*

2 **cast out** *sth* | **cast** *sth* **out**

literary to force something to go away or disappear: *Jesus had the power to heal diseases and cast out demons.*

cast round *BrE*

SEE **cast around**

cast up

cast up *sth* | **cast** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE if the sea casts something up, it brings it to the shore: *The body was cast up a few miles down the coast.*

+ **on** *a beautiful shell that had been cast up on the shore*

* SIMILAR TO: **wash up**

CAT

catted, catted, catting

cat around

cat around

AmE old-fashioned informal to have sex with a lot of different people: *Mike just cats around and never gets serious with any woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw around** *informal*, **sleep around** *informal*

CATCH

caught, caught, catching

catch at

catch at *sth*

to try to hold or pull something quickly, especially someone's arm or clothes: *Ruth caught at his arm. "Don't go! Please don't go!" | The path was thickly overgrown, and thorns caught at his clothes. | As he fell, he caught at a branch, and miraculously it held his weight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab at**

catch on

1 **catch on**

to become popular and fashionable: *A new fitness craze from Australia called Body Pump is catching on in the UK. | Netscape's accessible, easy-to-use web tools are catching on fast.*

2 **catch on**

to begin to understand or realize something, especially after a long time: *The technique was introduced in America as early as 1956, but the British were slow to catch on. | Joe didn't know anything about oil when he joined the company. But he was smart – he caught on fast.*

+ **to** *Eventually Val caught on to what her husband was doing, and thought about how she could get her revenge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cotton on** *BrE informal*, **latch on** *BrE informal*

catch out

1 **catch** *sb* **out**

to trick someone so that they make a mistake, especially in order to prove that they are lying: *As for lying in court, don't even think about it – the prosecuting attorney will only catch you out. | One of the people at work is always asking me really technical questions, as if he's trying to catch me out.*

2 **be caught out**

if you are caught out by an unexpected event, it puts you in a difficult situation that you were not ready to deal with: *Even the most experienced sailor can get caught out by the weather. | Many people were caught out by the collapse in the housing market.*

catch up

1 **catch up** | **catch** *sb/sth* **up**

to gradually get closer to a moving person or vehicle in front of you, by moving faster than they move: *Schumacher is still in front, but the other Ferrari is catching up. | You go ahead, and I'll catch you up later.*

catch up with *Looking back, I could see that the other walkers were catching up with us.*

2 **catch up** | **catch** *sb* **up**

to improve so much that you reach the same standard as someone else who was better than you: *Ali was 6 when he started in my class and he couldn't speak any English, but eventually he caught up.*

+ **with** *The US spent billions of dollars trying to catch up with the Soviet Union in space exploration in the early '60s.*

be caught up in

1 **be caught up in** *sth*

to be involved in a situation when you did not intend to become involved in it, and often when you do not want to be: *1,000 people were killed each month in Burundi. Most were civilians caught up in the fighting. |*

Katherine was soon caught up in a dangerous web of suspicion, lies, and love.

get caught up in sth *I decided to keep quiet – I didn't want to get caught up in another endless, petty argument.*

2 **be caught up in** *sth*

if you are caught up in something, it stops you from moving or making progress: *The country seemed to be caught up in its medieval past.*

get caught up in sth *Sorry I'm late – I was caught up in the traffic.*

catch up on

1 **catch up on** *sth*

to do something that you did not have time to do earlier: *I need a couple of days to catch on my letter writing. | The train journey to work takes 80 minutes, so he uses the time to catch up on his reading.*

catch up on your sleep *It had been a frantic week, and I spent most of the weekend trying to catch up on my sleep.*

2 **catch up on** *sth*

to get the most recent information about something

catch up on the news/gossip *On Saturday nights his Gran always went down to the village, to catch up on all the gossip. | It's Jill's birthday on April 2nd and they're having a party, so I'll catch up on the news then.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up with**

catch up with

1 **catch up with** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

if something bad catches up with you, it starts to cause problems which you have been able to avoid for a period of time, but are now forced to deal with: *Footballer Paul McGrath admitted that his long-term knee problems are finally beginning to catch up with him. | It seems she has a dark secret from her past which now threatens to catch up with her.*

2 **catch up with** *sb*

if someone in authority or the police catch up with you, they discover that you have been doing something wrong and punish you for it: *Hughes had been avoiding paying his taxes for years before the authorities finally caught up with him. | When the police caught up with him, they found his flat full of pornographic magazines and videos.*

3 **catch up with** *sb*

to meet someone you know after not seeing them for a period of time: *Brian is returning from New Zealand for the first time in 12 years, and is keen to catch up with family and friends, especially his mother, Dolly.*

I'll catch up with you later spoken (=used to tell someone that you will talk to them later) *I've got to dash off to a meeting now – I'll catch up with you later.*

4 **catch up with** *sth*

to do something that needs to be done, because you did not have time to do it earlier: *Friday is a fairly quiet day, so I usually have a chance to catch up with my paperwork. | Third-year students desperately trying to catch up on second-year work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up on**

5 **catch up with** *sth*

to get the most recent information about something: *The dinner was a pleasant opportunity for members to catch up with each other's news. | The Computer Show is a good opportunity to catch up with the latest software developments.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up on**

6 **catch up with** *sb*

to meet someone and ask them questions – used by newspaper and television reporters: *Ferruccio Furlanetto is one of the world's leading operatic singers. I caught up with him in his villa just outside Salzburg.*

CATER

catered, catered, catering

cater to
ALSO **cater for** *BrE*

cater to/for *sb* **cater to/for** *sth*

to provide something, especially a service, that a particular type of person wants or needs: *A number of bars and shops catering to a gay clientele have grown up along the waterfront. | La Renta caters to the tastes of women who want to look pretty and feminine. | a holiday company that caters for the disabled | The education system does not cater for exceptionally intelligent pupils like Emma.*

CAVE

caved, caved, caving

cave in

1 **cave in** **cave** *sth* **in** **cave in** *sth*

if a roof, ceiling, or wall caves in, or if something caves it in, it breaks and falls down: *The blast caused the roof of the Grand Hotel to cave in. | The tunnel had to be closed after an explosion caved the roof in.*

cave in on sb/sth *The whole building shook and I thought the walls and ceiling were going to cave in on me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall in**

C

2 **cave in**

to agree to do something that you opposed before, because someone has persuaded you or threatened you: *The council refused to give permission for a new stadium to be built, but then caved in when the baseball team threatened to leave town.*

cave in to sb's demands *Successive personnel managers had always caved in to Clasper's demands, because they knew that he would win in the end.*

cave in to pressure *The government caved in to pressure from property developers, and abandoned the proposed new building restrictions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in, capitulate** *formal*

C

CENTRE *BrE* CENTER *AmE*

centred, centred, centring BrE
centered, centered, centering AmE

centre around ALSO centre round *BrE*

centre around *sth*

be centred around *sth*

to happen mainly in a particular place, or to be mainly about a particular subject or person: *Village life is centred around one main street, lined with bars and restaurants overlooking the sea. | The Marxist theory of history centres around the notion of social class. | The story is centered around a group of single professional women in New York, who are all searching for someone to love.*

centre on/upon

● **Centre upon** is more formal than **centre on** and is used mostly in writing.

centre on/upon *sb/sth*

be centred on/upon *sb/sth*

to be mainly about a particular subject or person: *The story centers on a journalist called Cameron Colley, who struggles to save his failing marriage. | The talks will centre on the problem of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.*

centre round *BrE*

SEE **centre around**

centre upon

SEE **centre on**

CHAIN

chained, chained, chaining

chain up

chain up *sb/sth* **chain** *sb/sth* **up**

to fasten a person, animal, or thing to something with a chain, so that they cannot escape or be stolen: *The dog barked ferociously, and I was relieved to see that it was chained up. | Gareth left his bike chained up outside the college.*

CHALK

chalked, chalking, chalking

chalk up

1 **chalk up** *sth* **chalk** *sth* **up**

to succeed in winning or achieving something, especially in sport or business: *The company chalked up net profits of $451 million.*

chalk up a win/victory *The Oxford Saints chalked up their third win of the season, and are on target for making the National League playoffs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **notch up, clock up** *especially BrE*

2 **chalk up** *sth* **chalk** *sth* **up**

if a company chalks up debts or losses, it gets them or has them: *After chalking up debts of $3.5 billion, the Tokyo-based company is being rescued by five large Japanese banks.*

chalk up to

1 **chalk** *sth* **up to** *sth*

chalk up *sth* **to** *sth*

AmE to think or say that something happened because of something else: *The instructor couldn't understand Katz's strange behaviour but chalked it up to boredom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put down to, attribute to** *formal*

2 **chalk it up to experience**

to accept a failure or disappointment calmly and consider it as an experience that you can learn something from: *Our relationship didn't work out, but oh well – chalk it up to experience.*

CHANCE

chanced, chanced, chancing

chance upon/on

chance upon/on *sth*

chance upon/on *sb*

formal to find something or meet someone when you are not expecting to: *Recently I*

was wandering around a department store, when I chanced upon an old school friend. | *One day Allen chanced upon an advert in the Evening Standard inviting aspiring new actors to audition for a new play.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **happen on/upon**

CHANGE

changed, changed, changing

change around
ALSO **change round** *BrE*

a **change around/round** *sth*

change *sth* **around/round**

to move things into different positions: *When we'd changed the furniture around, the room looked quite different.* | *You can create different effects by changing the plants around, creating contrasts in form and colour.*

b **change** *sth* **around**

if you change a room around, you move the furniture in it into different positions: *I'm going to change my room round, and put my desk next to the window.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rearrange, switch around**

change down

change down

BrE to put the engine of a vehicle into a lower gear because you are driving more slowly, or are driving up a hill: *It is important to change down in plenty of time to prevent having to brake fiercely.*

+ into *Slow down when you approach the junction, and change down into second gear.*

● OPPOSITE: **change up**

change into

1 **change into** *sth*

to become something completely different: *When the princess kissed the frog, it changed into a handsome prince.* | *In less than 20 years, Japan had changed into one of the world's leading economies.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

2 **change** *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

to make someone or something become something different: *Churches are being changed into apartments, and warehouses are being converted into offices.* | *The husband who constantly criticizes you is probably trying to change you into the kind of person he wants you to be.* | *Circe, a beautiful and dangerous witch, changed Odysseus' men into pigs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

change over

1 **change over**

especially BrE to stop doing or using one system or thing, and to start doing or using a different one instead

+ to *Wheat was no longer profitable, and many farmers were forced to change over to dairy farming.*

change over from sth to sth *We changed over from gas to solar heating because it's cleaner and cheaper in the long term.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch over**

changeover N [C]

a change from one way of doing something to another: *The changeover from analogue to digital television should be complete by 2006.*

2 **change over**

especially BrE if two people change over, they each start doing the job or activity that the other one was doing before: *You navigate and I'll drive halfway, and then we'll change over.* | *One of us would do the digging and one of us would pull up weeds, then when we got bored we'd change over.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swap over** *informal*, **switch over**

change round *BrE*

SEE **change around**

change up

change up

BrE to put the engine of a vehicle into a higher gear because you want to drive more quickly

+ into *When you're on the motorway, change up into fifth.*

● OPPOSITE: **change down**

CHARGE

charged, charged, charging

charge up

1 **charge up** *sth* **charge** *sth* **up**

charge up

if you charge up a battery or a piece of electrical equipment, or it charges up, electricity is put into it and stored so that it has power: *How long will it take for the batteries to charge up?* | *The shaver can be charged up overnight.*

2 **charge up** *sth*

AmE if you charge up a credit card, you use it a lot to buy things, with the result that you owe a lot of money. A credit card is a small

C

plastic card you use to buy goods or services and pay for them later: *When I lost my job I had to charge up all my credit cards just to pay the bills.* | *Karen charged up her Visa card on a shopping trip to Macy's.*

3 **be charged up**

AmE to feel excited and very eager to do something: *We came out onto the playing field, charged up and determined to win.*

charge with

C

1 **charge** *sb* **with** *sth*

to state officially that you think someone is guilty of a crime, especially so that a court of law can decide whether they should be punished: *Police arrested Reid and charged him with murder.* | *He was charged with possession of illegal drugs.*

charge sb with doing sth *Ames was charged with spying for the Russians.*

2 **be charged with** *sth*

formal to officially have a particular responsibility or duty: *The Committee is charged with investigating the causes of the accident.* | *The board was charged with the task of seeing that new courses were of the right standard.*

3 **be charged with emotion/anger/ excitement**

formal to be full of emotion, anger, or excitement: *Sabrina's voice was charged with emotion, and I could see that she was still upset.*

CHASE

chased, chased, chasing

chase after

1 **chase after** *sth*

to use a lot of time and effort trying to get something that you want: *During elections, politicians have to chase after thousands of dollars to support their campaign.* | *We spend the morning chasing after bargains in the sales.*

2 **chase after** *sb*

to try very hard to have a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *Jacob never stopped chasing after young women, even when he was married.* | *If you keep chasing after guys like that, they're never going to be interested in you.*

chase away

chase *sb/sth* **away** | **chase away** *sb/sth*

to make a person or animal go away by running towards them in a threatening way: *The storekeeper chased the men away with his gun.* | *Two large dogs brutally attacked a 10-year-old boy until a neighbor chased them away.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chase off**

chase down

chase down *sb/sth* | **chase** *sb/sth* **down**

to succeed in finding or catching someone or something: *Police departments concentrate on chasing down criminals, rather than helping communities to prevent crime.* | *Latapy broke through the 49ers defense, chased down the ball, and scored a touchdown.*

chase off

chase off *sb/sth* | **chase** *sb/sth* **off**

to make a person or animal go away by scaring them or running towards them in a threatening way: *We still talk about the time Grandpa chased off a gang of boys with the kitchen broom.* | *A Navy ship was attacked by two smaller boats, but managed to chase them off before any harm was done.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chase away**

chase up

1 **chase up** *sb* | **chase** *sb* **up**

BrE to remind someone to do something they promised to do for you: *I had to chase Dick up to get the reports I asked for last week.*

2 **chase** *sth* **up** | **chase up** *sth*

BrE to try to find something because people need it: *Can you chase up that file for me?*

3 **chase up** *sth* | **chase** *sth* **up**

BrE to try to make sure that something is paid or done, especially when it has taken too long: *The company employs a team of 20 people to chase up unpaid bills.*

CHAT

chatted, chatted, chatting

chat up

1 **chat up** *sb* | **chat** *sb* **up**

BrE informal to talk to someone who you feel sexually attracted to and try to persuade them to start a sexual relationship with you: *We found Doug in the bar, trying to chat up a waitress.* | *He said I had nice eyes, and I thought he was trying to chat me up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hit on** *AmE spoken informal*

2 **chat up** *sb* | **chat** *sb* **up**

AmE informal to talk with someone in a friendly way, especially when you want them to help you or give you something: *Malone will chat up anyone who walks into his store.* | *Gwen felt obligated to chat her boss up after work.*

CHEAT

cheated, cheated, cheating

cheat on

1 **cheat on** *sb*

to deceive your husband, wife, or sexual partner by secretly having sex with someone else: *A recent study shows that a third of all married people have cheated on their husbands or wives at least one time.* | *When Sherry discovered that her boyfriend had been cheating on her, she finished with him immediately.*

2 **cheat on** *sth*

AmE to behave in a dishonest way in order to get better results in a test: *Fred confessed to his parents that he had cheated on his biology test.* | *Chris got a good grade on the Spanish quiz, but I know he cheated on part of it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cheat**

3 **cheat on your taxes**

AmE to hide information or lie about how much money you make in order to pay less tax: *Perkins spent five years in jail for cheating on his taxes.*

CHECK

checked, checked, checking

check in

1a **check in**

to go to the desk at an airport in order to show your ticket and give them your bags to put on the plane: *For international flights you'll need to check in two hours in advance.* | *Where do we check in for flight 409?*

check-in N [SINGULAR]
the place at the airport where you show your ticket and give them your bags to put on the plane: *We rushed over to the check-in and showed the man our tickets.*

check-in time N [C]
the time when you have to check in at an airport: *Check-in time is 9.30, one hour before take-off.*

1b **check in** *sth* **check** *sth* **in**

to give your bags to a person who works at the desk in the airport, so they can weigh them and put them on the plane: *People were waiting to check in their luggage.* | *How many bags do you want to check in?*

1c **check** *sb* **in** **check in** *sb*

to look at someone's ticket and take their bags, before they get on a plane: *I can check you in over here, sir.*

2 **check in**

to go to the desk at a hotel and say that you have arrived, and get the keys to your room: *Bernstein checked in at Miami's most expensive hotel.* | *There was a long wait at the reception desk, where everyone was checking in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **check into, book in/into** *BrE*

● OPPOSITE: **check out**

3 **check in** *sth* **check** *sth* **in**

AmE to return a book, video etc to the library after you have borrowed it: *I need to check my books in by Friday.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return**

check into

1 **check into** *sth*

to go to the desk at a hotel and say that you have arrived, get the keys to your room etc: *It was about 11pm when I got to Burlington and checked into the Holiday Inn.* | *Travelers were forced to check into motels Thursday because of icy roads and snow.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **check in, book in/into** *BrE*

2 **check into** *sth*

to try to get more information about something: *Blackman said he'd check into the matter and call me back.* | *Tyson checked into the possibility of a summer holiday in Greece, but decided it was too expensive.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look into**

3 **check into** *sth*

especially AmE if you check into a hospital or medical centre, you go there to stay for a while because you need medical help: *Riley checked into Shands Hospital with severe stomach pains.* | *Lionel checked into a drug treatment center in an attempt to get himself off heroin.*

check off

a **check off** *sth* **check** *sth* **off**

to make a mark next to something on a list to show that you have dealt with it or looked at it: *Once each job has been completed, you can check it off and begin to work on something else.* | *His wife checked off the names of the guests as they arrived.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tick off** *BrE*

b **check off** *sth* **check** *sth* **off**

AmE to make a mark next to an answer on a list of choices or answers to a question, in order to show which one you have chosen: *Look over the list and check off the ten issues that seem most important to you.* | *If you'd like a representative to call you, please check off the box on the right.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **check** *AmE*, **tick off** *BrE*

C

check on

1 **check on** *sb/sth*

to find out if someone is doing what they are supposed to be doing, or that something is happening the way that you want: *Company executives sometimes come to the office to check on employees.* | *"Dinner's almost ready," Alice said, opening the oven door to check on the roast.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check up on**

C

2 **check on** *sb/sth*

to make sure that someone or something is safe, or has everything they need: *Adrienne often checks on her elderly neighbours across the street.* | *Honey, can you go upstairs and check on the kids?* | *Would you mind checking on our house a couple of times while we're on holiday?*

3 **check on** *sth*

to try to get more information about something: *I stopped at the camping store to check on the price of tents.* | *Please do not call our office to check on the status of your application.*

check out

1 **check out** *sth/sb* | **check** *sth/sb* **out**

to get more information about something or someone, especially so that you can find out if they are suitable or good, or whether what you have been told about them is true: *After checking out several colleges, Karen decided on Iowa State University.* | *Check us out on our new website!* | *The man in the store said he needed to check out my credit background.*

2a **check out** *sth* | **check** *sth* **out**

to make sure that information is true or correct: *You should check out all the facts before you make a decision.*

* SIMILAR TO: **investigate**

2b **check out**

if information checks out, it is shown to be true or correct: *As long as your references check out, we'll give you the job.* | *Anyone whose credit history checks out can get a low-interest loan.*

3 **check out** *sb/sth* | **check** *sb/sth* **out**

AmE to look at someone or something because they are interesting, attractive, unusual etc: *Let's check out the castle before we go back to the hotel.* | *I turned around and caught Bill checking me out.*

check it out/check this out *spoken, especially AmE* *Hey, check it out! Bob has a new haircut!*

4 **check out**

to return your room keys and pay your bill at a hotel so that you can leave: *What time do we have to check out?* | *After checking out, I realized I had left my purse in the room.*

● OPPOSITE: **check in**

checkout N [SINGULAR]
when you prepare to leave a hotel by paying your bill and returning your room keys: *Checkout is at 10am.*

5 **check out** *sth* | **check** *sth* **out**

AmE to borrow or rent something from a business, such as books from a library: *The library allows you to check out six books at a time.*

6a **check** *sb* **out** | **check out** *sb*

AmE to add up prices of a customer's products in a store and take payment for them: *I can check you out on cash register 5.*

6b **check out**

AmE to let a store worker add up the prices of products you want to buy, and then pay for them: *It's going to take forever to check out! This line has 10 people in it!*

checkout N [C]
the place in a supermarket (=a large shop that sells food) where you pay for the goods that you have collected: *We had to wait for ages at the checkout.*

7 **check out**

AmE informal to die: *My grandmother just checked out one day without any warning.*

check over

1 **check over** *sth* | **check** *sth* **over**

to examine something to make sure it is correct, acceptable, or working properly: *Mechanics checked over the engine before the plane took off.* | *Would you mind checking over my application for me before I send it off?*

* SIMILAR TO: **look over**

2 **check** *sb* **over** | **check over** *sb*

to examine someone to make sure they are healthy: *I'd like Dr Harris to check you over once more before you leave the office.* | *Dunston was pulled off the football field and checked over by a doctor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **examine, look over**

check through

1 **check through** *sth*

to examine a collection of things or the contents of something, because you are trying to find something: *I've checked through all my drawers, but there's no sign of my red sweater.* | *The police checked through the suspect's bank statements, and discovered that she had received a payment of $200,000 on July 6th.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look through**

2 **check through** *sth* | **check** *sth* **through**

to examine something to make sure that there are no mistakes in it or no problems with it: *I just want to check through my work before I hand it in to the teacher.*

check up

check up | **check up** *sth* | **check** *sth* **up**

BrE to make sure that you have the correct information about something: *I don't know if you need a visa for India – you'd better check up first before you buy your ticket.*

checkup N [C]
when a doctor examines you to see if you are healthy: *Doctors recommend a yearly checkup for most adults.*

check up on

1 **check up on** *sb/sth*

to try to find out if someone is doing what they should be doing, especially secretly: *Immigration officials checked up on him and found that he was using a stolen passport. | My boss doesn't trust anyone and he's always coming into the office to check up on me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check on**

2 **check up on** *sb*

to make sure that someone is still safe and healthy: *"I'll be back in a few minutes to check up on you," promised Dr Finnegan. | Munson encouraged college students who go out drinking to stay together and check up on each other.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check on**

CHEER

cheered, cheered, cheering

cheer on

cheer on *sb/sth* | **cheer** *sb/sth* **on**

to shout in order to encourage someone who is taking part in a game, race, or competition: *6,000 fans cheered on their teams in the high school basketball championship game. | With friends and family cheering me on, I finished the marathon in less than four hours.*

cheer up

1 **cheer up** | **cheer** *sb* **up** | **cheer up** *sb*

to feel happier after you have been feeling sad or upset, or to make someone do this: *Cheer up, Jerry. It can't be that bad. | We took Randy for a weekend trip to New Orleans to cheer him up after his divorce. | Listening to music always cheers me a up a bit. | Craig needs cheering up. What should we do?*

2 **cheer** *sth* **up** | **cheer up** *sth*

to make a place look more attractive and cheerful: *I've brought some flowers. I thought they'd cheer the place up a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

CHEESE

be cheesed off

be cheesed off

BrE informal to be bored, annoyed, or disappointed with something: *What's wrong with David? He looks really cheesed off.*

+ with/about *I'm totally cheesed off with this class. | He's a bit cheesed off about having to work every Saturday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fed up**

CHEW

chewed, chewed, chewing

chew on

chew on *sth*

informal, especially AmE to think about a question, problem, or idea carefully for a period of time: *The movie ended suddenly, leaving the audience to chew on the disturbing scenes they had just watched. | Why don't you chew on it over the weekend, and make a decision by Monday?*

* SIMILAR TO: **ponder** *formal*, **chew over**

chew out

chew *sb* **out** | **chew out** *sb*

AmE informal to talk angrily to someone to show that you disapprove of what they have done: *My boss chewed me out for not getting the report in on time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bawl out** *AmE informal*, **tell off, lay into**

chew over

chew over *sth* | **chew** *sth* **over**

to think about a question, problem, or idea carefully for a period of time, or to discuss it in detail: *I can't give you an answer right away – I need some time to chew it over. | Commentators have been chewing over the implications of the chancellor's announcement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ponder** *formal*, **chew on** *informal*, **mull over**

chew up

1 **chew up** *sth* | **chew** *sth* **up**

to crush food with your teeth in order to break it into smaller pieces before swallowing it: *Tommy chewed up his vegetables without*

C

complaining. | I tried to chew up the meat, but it tasted so horrible I had to spit it out.

2 **chew up** *sth* **chew** *sth* **up**

to crush something with your teeth, with the result that it is broken into small pieces or has a lot of holes in it: *The dogs will chew up the furniture if we don't watch them carefully. | Be careful to keep the papers away from the baby or she'll chew them up.*

3 **chew up** *sth* **chew** *sth* **up**

if a machine chews something up, it damages or destroys it, especially by crushing or breaking it into small pieces: *The printer is chewing the paper up again. | Be careful – that engine could chew your finger up.*

C

CHICKEN

chickened, chickened, chickening

chicken out

chicken out

informal to decide not to do something because you are too afraid – used especially to show disapproval: *Foreman's opponent chickened out at the last minute and said he didn't want to fight.*

chicken out on sb *Tomorrow's the race – you're not chickening out on us, are you?*

chicken out of doing sth *At the last minute I chickened out of going to Africa and decided instead to take a holiday in Italy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wimp out** *informal*

CHILL

chilled, chilled, chilling

chill out

1 **chill out**

spoken informal to relax: *"What are you doing?" "Nothing much. Just chilling out." | The band were chilling out in their hotel room after the concert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax**

2 **chill out!**

spoken informal used to tell someone not to worry or not to get annoyed or too excited: *Hey girl, chill out, okay! He's not worth worrying about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down**

CHIME

chimed, chimed, chiming

chime in

chime in

to say something in a conversation, especially by agreeing with or adding to what someone has just said: *"It's a great idea," my sister Rose chimed in. | At the teachers' meeting Mrs Larsen complained about the low pay, and soon all the other teachers were chiming in as well.*

chime in with

chime in with *sth*

especially BrE to be similar to someone else's opinions or feelings, or be similar to what someone has just said: *Churchill's speeches chimed in with the national mood at the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **agree with**

CHIP

chipped, chipped, chipping

chip away at

chip away at *sth*

to gradually reduce something or make something disappear: *Book sales over the Internet are chipping away at the profits of retail bookstores. | The Rockets were slowly chipping away at their opponents' lead. | Smokers complain that anti-smoking campaigns have chipped away at their rights.*

chip in

1 **chip in**

informal if each person in a group chips in, they all give a small amount of money in order to pay for something together: *When Mona retired, all her co-workers chipped in and bought her a going away present. | If we all chip in, we should be able to get something really nice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contribute**

2 **chip in**

especially BrE to interrupt a conversation in order to say something: *"Chris is also a really good football player," Alex chipped in. | With everyone trying to chip in at once, it was difficult to hear what anyone was saying.*

CHIVVY

chivvied, chivvied, chivvying

chivvy along/up

chivvy *sb* **along/up**

BrE to try to make someone do something more quickly, especially because you think they are taking too long: *Go and see if you can chivvy the kids up a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hurry along/up**

CHOKE
choked, choked, choking

choke back

choke back tears/anger/ disappointment etc

to force yourself not to cry or show your feelings about something: *Dole choked back tears as he announced his resignation.* | *Choking back his own disappointment, he congratulated his opponent on his victory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choke down, force back, hold back**

choke down

1 **choke down** *sth* **choke** *sth* **down**

to eat or drink something with difficulty, especially because you do not like it, or because you are ill or upset: *I managed to choke down part of the soup and promised to try to finish the rest of it later.* | *Trying to be polite, Janie took a small portion of the meat and began to choke it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **force down**

2 **choke down** *sth* **choke** *sth* **down**

to force yourself not to show your feelings: *"All right," I said, choking down my tears, "I'll apologise to Mrs James."*

* SIMILAR TO: **choke back, hold back, fight back**

choke off

choke off *sth*

to stop the supply of something: *The government is increasing its efforts to choke off the flow of cocaine from Latin America to the United States.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop, block**

choke up

1 **choke up** **choke** *sb* **up**

to have difficulty speaking because you are almost crying, or to make someone do this: *When she was thanking her family for all the help over the years, she started to choke up.* | *Louis Armstrong's song 'Wonderful World' chokes me up every time I hear it.*

choked up ADJ
when you have difficulty speaking because you are almost crying: *Bill wanted to thank the woman, but he was too choked up to speak.*

2 **choke up** *sth* **choke** *sth* **up**

to block a street or area etc so that people or traffic cannot easily move through it: *Commuter traffic chokes up the freeways during rush hour.*

CHOOSE
chose, chosen, choosing

choose up

choose up *sth* **choose up**

AmE to divide a group of people into teams, usually to play a game or sport: *We chose up different teams, and started a new game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick**

CHOP
chopped, chopped, chopping

chop down

chop down *sth* **chop** *sth* **down**

to make a tree fall to the ground by cutting it with an axe (=a sharp heavy tool) *The American legend says that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut down**

chop off

chop off *sth* **chop** *sth* **off**

to remove something using a knife or other sharp tool: *Chop off the ends of the carrots before you peel them.* | *The thieves threatened to chop her fingers off if she didn't give them her rings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut off, hack off**

chop up

chop up *sth* **chop** *sth* **up**

to cut something, especially food or wood, into smaller pieces: *Dad was chopping up wood for the fire.* | *Chop up a cup of green or black olives and add them to the sauce.* | *You should chop the onion up into tiny pieces and mix it with the peppers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut up**

CHOW
chowed, chowed, chowing

chow down

chow down

AmE informal to eat – especially to eat a lot of food with enjoyment: *It's not the nicest place in town to chow down, but they do serve a good steak dinner.*

+ on *Manhattan diners can chow down on Southwestern food at The Lone Cactus Restaurant on Houston Street.*

C

CHUCK

chucked, chucked, chucking

chuck away

chuck away *sth* | **chuck** *sth* **away**

informal, especially BrE to get rid of something you no longer need: *We had to chuck a lot of stuff away when we moved.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw away, chuck out** *informal*

C

chuck down

it's chucking (it) down

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very hard: *It's been chucking down for days now – when is it going to stop!*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**

chuck in

chuck in *sth* | **chuck** *sth* **in**

BrE informal to suddenly stop doing something, especially your job or your course of study: *She chucked in a perfectly good job and went to live with her boyfriend.*

chuck it (all) in *Sometimes I feel like chucking it all in and going off to India for a year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **quit, give up, throw in** *BrE*

chuck out

1 **chuck out** *sth* | **chuck** *sth* **out**

informal to get rid of something you no longer need: *Instead of just chucking out your old clothes, why not give them to charity? | You can chuck out the milk – it's been in the fridge for weeks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw out, chuck away** *informal*

2 **chuck out** *sb* | **chuck** *sb* **out**

BrE informal to force someone to leave a place, especially because they are behaving badly: *She found out he was having an affair, and so she chucked him out.*

+ of *We got chucked out of the pub last night for making too much noise.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw out, kick out**

chucking-out time *BrE informal* N [U] when a pub (=a place where you can drink alcohol) closes for the night: *They stayed at the pub until chucking-out time.*

chuck up

chuck up | **chuck up** *sth* | **chuck** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to vomit (=bring food or drink up from your stomach and out through your mouth, because you are ill) *I was chucking up all night – I think it must have been the shellfish.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vomit, throw up**

CHUG

chugged, chugged, chugging

chug along

chug along USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to continue doing something or developing in the same way as before, but very slowly and steadily: *Economists expect Japan's economy to keep chugging along, although at a slower pace than before. | "We're chugging along, trying to resolve all these problems," said Gary Hansen, who is leading the campaign to build a new sports stadium.*

CHUM

chummed, chummed, chumming

chum around

chum around

AmE informal to be friendly with someone or to do things together with someone as a friend

+ with *"Saunders is always chumming around with me. He's cool," says the Giants' batboy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pal around** *AmE informal*

chum up

chum up

old-fashioned to become friends with someone

+ with *Lani soon chummed up with the girl in the room next door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pal up** *BrE informal*

CHURN

churned, churned, churning

churn out

churn out *sth* | **churn** *sth* **out**

to quickly produce large quantities of something, especially without caring about quality: *In recent years, large corporations have built overseas factories to churn out clothing and toys. | She used to churn out at least one novel each year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crank out** *AmE informal*

churn up

1 **churn up** *sth* | **churn** *sth* **up**

if something churns up the ground, water, dust etc, it moves it around with a lot of force: *Strong winds have churned up huge dust storms in southern California this week. | The storm churned up 10-foot waves off southern Thailand, sinking more than 20 boats.*

2 **churn up** *sth* | **churn** *sth* **up**

to damage the surface of something, especially by walking on it or driving over it: *Heavy trucks and buses are churning up the freeways.* | *They put up a fence to keep the neighbourhood kids from churning up the lawn.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plough up**

CLAM

clammed, clammed, clamming

clam up

clam up

informal to suddenly stop talking or to refuse to say anything about a subject, because you do not want to talk about it or because you are shy: *Howard clammed up as soon as the others came into the room.* | *I tried asking him about Eileen, but he just clammed up completely.*

clam up on sb (=suddenly stop talking to someone about something) *Celia wondered why her mother clammed up on her whenever she asked what had happened to her father in the war.*

CLAMP

clamped, clamped, clamping

clamp down

clamp down

if the authorities clamp down on something or someone they take action in order to stop them or limit them – used especially in news reports

+ on *The new French government has announced plans to clamp down on illegal immigrants.* | *The police are really clamping down on drunk drivers.* | *South African leaders vowed to clamp down on the violence sweeping the province.* | *The government's clamping down on tax evasion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack down**

clampdown N [C]
when the authorities suddenly take action to stop something happening or to limit it

+ on *calls for a clampdown on gun ownership*

+ against *a clampdown against opposition groups in Burma*

CLAP

clapped, clapped, clapping

clap out

clap out *sth* | **clap** *sth* **out**

BrE to hit your hands together in order to produce a pattern of sound

clap out the rhythm/beat *My piano teacher always made me clap out the rhythm first before I tried to play a new tune.*

CLAW

clawed, clawed, clawing

claw at

1 **claw at** *sth/sb*

to tear or pull at something, using your fingers or nails: *Jenna suddenly raised her hand and clawed at his face.* | *I was woken up by the cat clawing at the bedroom door.*

2 **claw at** *sb/sth*

literary if an emotion or feeling claws at you, you feel it very strongly in a way that is unpleasant: *Jealousy clawed at her, and she wanted to scream.*

claw back

1 **claw back** *sth* | **claw** *sth* **back**

to gradually get back something that you had lost by working hard and in a very determined way: *Through heavy advertising, the company managed to claw back its share of the market.* | *Two months before the election, Yeltsin started to claw back the lead gained by his Communist rival.*

2 **claw back** *sth* | **claw** *sth* **back**

BrE if a government or organization claws back money which it has spent, it finds a way of gradually getting it back: *The government is attempting to claw back the budget deficit, which currently stands at £50 billion.* | *Although he cut income tax, the Chancellor was able to claw back the money through hidden charges on investments and pensions.*

CLEAN

cleaned, cleaned, cleaning

clean down

clean down *sth* | **clean** *sth* **down**

BrE to clean the surface of something thoroughly: *Make sure that you clean the walls down before you start painting.* | *All the machines are cleaned down at the end of each day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wash down**

clean out

1 **clean out** *sth* | **clean** *sth* **out**

to clean the inside of something and throw away anything in it that you do not need or want: *I spent Saturday morning cleaning out the fridge and the food cupboards.* | *When are you going to clean out your room – it's in a terrible mess!*

clean-out N [SINGULAR]
when you clean a place thoroughly and throw away things in it that you do not need or want: *It's time we had a thorough clean-out in this house.*

2 **clean out** *sth* **clean** *sth* **out**

to remove dirt, dust, leaves etc from a place when they are blocking it: *Before the winter, you should check the gutters and clean out any rubbish.* | *The nurse carefully washed the wound and cleaned out the dirt and grit.*

C

3 **clean out** *sth* **clean** *sth* **out**

to clean the place where an animal is kept: *The stables have to be cleaned out every day.*

clean out the fish/horses/chickens etc *BrE* *It's your turn to clean out the fish.*

4a **clean** *sb* **out** **clean out** *sb*

informal if something cleans you out, it costs so much money that you have no more left: *It was a great holiday, but it really cleaned us out.* | *When I pay the bills, I'll be cleaned out.*

4b **clean** *sb* **out**

if someone cleans you out, you have to give them all your money: *The divorce was very expensive – my wife cleaned me out completely.*

5 **clean** *sth* **out** **clean out** *sth*

informal to steal everything from a place, or all of someone's possessions

clean the place out *The thieves had completely cleaned the place out.*

clean up

1 **clean up** **clean up** *sth* **clean** *sth* **up**

to make a place or person clean and tidy, after they have become very dirty: *We spent all Saturday morning cleaning up after the party.* | *A lot of money needs to be spent on cleaning up our beaches.*

clean yourself up *You'd better clean yourself up before dinner!*

clean up the mess *BrE* *I don't mind you having a party, as long as you clean up the mess afterwards.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up**

clean-up N [SINGULAR]
when you clean a place thoroughly and make it tidy, especially when it is very dirty: *This kitchen could do with a bit of a clean-up.*

2 **clean up** *sth* **clean** *sth* **up**

to remove dirt, water, poisonous gases etc from something in order to make it clean again: *There was mud all over the carpet and it took me ages to clean it up.* | *The way to clean up pollution in our cities is to limit the amount of traffic allowed in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up**

clean-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
concerned with removing the dirt, water, poisonous gases etc caused by a disaster: *Equipment was sent to help with the clean-up operation at Chernobyl.*

3 **clean up** *sth* **clean** *sth* **up**

to improve the moral standards in a place or organization and stop people behaving in an illegal or dishonest way: *The new governor was determined to clean up Arizona's politics.* | *New laws aimed at cleaning up the financial services industry will soon be in place.*

clean-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
concerned with getting rid of dishonest or criminal activities: *a clean-up campaign to prevent the sale of illegal drugs*

4 **clean up your act**

informal to improve the way in which you do something and start behaving in a more acceptable way: *The industries that are responsible for this pollution must clean up their act.* | *Lou was really wild as a teenager, but recently he's started to clean up his act.*

5 **clean up**

informal to win or earn a very large amount of money: *We really cleaned up at the races today.*

CLEAR

cleared, cleared, clearing

clear away

1 **clear away** *sth* **clear** *sth* **away**

clear away

to put away the things that you have been using so that a place looks neat again, especially after a meal: *By ten-thirty we'd cleared away the breakfast things and everyone was ready to go out.* | *You'd better clear all these toys away before your grandmother gets here.* | *Mum was watching television, so the rest of us cleared away and washed up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up** *BrE*, **tidy away**

2 **clear away**

to move away from a place: *The protesters slowly cleared away from the building when the police arrived.*

clear off

1 **clear off!**

spoken, especially BrE used to tell someone rudely and angrily to go away: *Clear off and don't come back!*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, push off!** *BrE spoken informal*, **buzz off!** *spoken informal*

2 **clear off** | **clear off** *sth*

informal, especially BrE to leave a place quickly: *Frank cleared off at about ten o'clock, without saying where he was going.*

+ to *I couldn't stand the English climate, so I cleared off to America as soon as I could.*

clear out

1 **clear out** *sth* | **clear** *sth* **out**

to make a room, cupboard etc tidy and throw away the things in it you do not need or want anymore: *While I was clearing out the attic, I found some old photographs of my mother.* | *It took them hours just to clear out the hall cupboards.*

clear-out N [SINGULAR]
when you make a place tidy and throw away the things in it that you do not need or want anymore: *Look at this mess – it's time we had a big clear-out in here.*

2 **clear out**

informal to leave a place or building quickly or suddenly, especially permanently: *By the time the police arrived the men had already cleared out.*

+ of *I'll give you two hours to collect your things and clear out of here!*

clear out! (=used to tell someone rudely and angrily to leave a place) *Clear out! I don't want to see you again!*

* SIMILAR TO: **get out**

clear up

1 **clear up** | **clear up** *sth* | **clear** *sth* **up**

BrE to put things back where they are usually kept and make a place clean and tidy, especially after a meal, party etc: *Let's clear up as quickly as possible and then watch the film on TV.*

clear up the mess BrE *I went through to the front room to clear up the mess.*

clear up after sb (=make a place clean and tidy after someone else has made it dirty and untidy) *I'm tired of clearing up after other people all the time!*

* SIMILAR TO: **tidy up** BrE

2 **clear up** *sth* | **clear** *sth* **up**

to solve a problem or deal with a disagreement or a situation in which people have become confused: *Talks continued late into the night in an effort to clear up the remaining difficulties.* | *Why don't you phone him and clear up the confusion?* | *There are various problems of organization that still need to be cleared up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sort out**

3 **clear up** *sth* | **clear** *sth* **up**

to find an explanation for something that is strange and hard to understand: *Officials have been unable to clear up the mystery of how the ship caught fire.* | *The case was never cleared up completely and no one knows what happened to the man suspected of her murder.*

* SIMILAR TO: **solve**

4 **clear up** | **clear up** *sth* | **clear** *sth* **up**

if an illness or infection clears up, or if medicine clears it up, it gets better and disappears: *Keep taking the antibiotics and the infection should clear up within a week.* | *The doctor prescribed a cream which will help to clear it up.*

5 **the weather clears up/it clears up**

if the weather clears up, it stops raining and becomes more pleasant: *If the weather clears up, why don't we go to the beach this afternoon?* | *The weather forecast said that it would clear up later in the day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

CLEAVE

cleaved, cleaved, cleaving

cleave to

cleave to *sth*

formal to continue to believe that a particular idea, method etc is right, even when most other people have stopped believing this: *There are people in the former Soviet Union who still cleave to the old Marxist ideology of a one-party state.*

CLICK

clicked, clicked, clicking

click on

click on *sth*

to make a computer perform an operation by pressing a button on the mouse in order to choose something on the screen. A mouse is a small object connected to a computer, which you move with your hand to give commands to the computer: *Once you have entered your data, click on OK.* | *Click on the printer icon with the right mouse button.*

CLIMB

climbed, climbed, climbing

climb down

climb down

BrE to admit that you were wrong in an argument, or agree to accept other people's demands: *Neither side in the dispute has been willing to climb down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back down**

climbdown N [C]
when you admit that you were wrong, or agree to accept other people's demands: *This change in policy has been seen as a humiliating climbdown by the government.*

CLING
clung, clung, clinging

cling to/cling on to

C

1 **cling (on) to the idea/hope/belief etc**

to continue to have a particular idea, belief, or hope even when it seems unlikely to be true or right: *He was clinging desperately to the hope that his family might be alive and safe somewhere. | The government clung on to the idea of a negotiated settlement as a way out of their difficulty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold onto/on to sth**

2 **cling (on) to the past/to tradition/ to the old ways etc**

to continue to do something in the way you always have done because you do not want to change, even when most other people have changed: *He accused me of clinging to the past, instead of looking to the future. | It was a small community, which still clung on to its traditions.*

3 **cling (on) to power**

to stay in a position of power with great difficulty: *The reforms were seen as an attempt by the Communists to cling to power.*

4 **cling (on) to your lead/the championship/the gold medal etc**

to stay ahead of the other people or teams in a competition, race etc with great difficulty: *Tiger Woods managed to cling on to his lead, despite a late challenge from the Europeans.*

5 **cling on to life**

to struggle to stay alive after an accident, operation etc, especially when you are very ill and likely to die: *An eighteen-year-old man was still clinging to life after being shot in the head in Santa Clara.*

CLOCK
clocked, clocked, clocking

clock in
ALSO **clock on** *BrE*

clock in/on

to record the time that you arrive at work, especially by putting a special card into a machine: *Staff are expected to clock in when they arrive at the factory. | I used to clock on at eight in the morning every day.*

● OPPOSITE: **clock off/out**

clock in at

clock in at *sth*

to have a particular time, weight etc, when this information is being officially recorded: *The next time she ran the race, she clocked in at 41.81 seconds. | At £699, the Olivetti PG404 clocks in at less than half the price of the LaserJet 4.*

clock out
ALSO **clock off** *BrE*

clock off/out

to record the time that you leave work, especially by putting a special card into a machine: *She clocks off at 7.15 and goes home to cook her family's supper.*

● OPPOSITE: **clock in/on**

clock up

clock up *sth*

especially BrE to reach or achieve a large number or amount of something over a period of time: *The England team clocked up their third successive win. | Jeremy Smith was jailed for six months after clocking up his twelfth drink-driving offence.*

* SIMILAR TO: **notch up, chalk up**

CLOG
clogged, clogged, clogging

clog up

1 **clog up** | **clog up** *sth* | **clog** *sth* **up**

if something such as a road or tube clogs up, or something clogs it up, it becomes blocked and nothing in it is able to move: *The coffee machine keeps clogging up. | Fallen leaves had clogged up the drains.*

+ **with** *The town centre was completely clogged up with traffic this afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block up**

2 **clog up the system**

if a lot of things clogs up the system, they prevent it from working smoothly and prevent things from being dealt with as quickly as usual: *All the extra applications for passports have clogged up the system.*

CLOSE
closed, closed, closing

close down

1 **close down**

if a business or organization closes down, it stops operating for a short time or permanently: *Even in Washington, cafes, shops and*

offices closed down during the recession. | *The Bowes was a thriving rock disco during the eighties, but it closed down two years ago.* | *The college has closed down for the summer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shut down**

2 **close down** *sth* | **close** *sth* **down**

to stop a business or an organization operating for a short time or permanently: *The restaurant was closed down by the Environmental Health Department.* | *In the end, they had to close down a number of the company's European offices.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shut down**

3 **close down**

BrE when radio or television closes down, it stops broadcasting at the end of the day: *BBC2 closes down at 12.45 tonight.*

closedown N [U]
BrE when radio or television stop being broadcast at the end of the day: *the late-night closedown*

close in

1 **close in**

to move closer and closer to someone or something, especially in order to attack them or stop them escaping: *The lions were running faster and faster, closing in for the kill.*

+ on *I knew that the gang was closing in on me – there was nowhere for me to run.* | *Serb forces began closing in on Srebrenica and the UN was powerless to stop them.*

2 **close in**

if bad weather closes in, it starts to get worse: *Sarah glanced at the sky, anxious to get home before the weather closed in.* | *The fog began to close in and we couldn't see a thing.*

3 **the night closes in**

if the night closes in, it gradually becomes darker: *It was 8 o'clock, and the night was already starting to close in.*

4 **close in**

if trees, mountains, walls etc close in, they seem to surround you and be close together or be very close to you: *At Urepel the mountains close in and the road ends.* | *The path got narrower and narrower as the trees closed in on all sides.*

5 **the days close in**

BrE if the days close in, it gradually gets darker earlier because it is the autumn: *It was the beginning of September, and already the days were closing in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **draw in** BrE

close off

close off *sth* | **close** *sth* **off**

to block the entrance to a particular area or road in order to prevent people from going there: *Police closed off the whole road while they dealt with the accident.* | *With more than 5,000 fans waiting to see Schwarzenegger, the area around Planet Hollywood had to be closed off.*

+ to *Parts of the palace were closed off to the public for redecoration and repair.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **seal off**

close on

close on *sb/sth*

BrE to gradually get closer and closer to a person or an animal, especially in a race or when you are trying to catch them: *He ran the length of the pitch with Steve Hackney closing on him every second.* | *The other plane was only about one hundred feet above the sea, and we closed on it rapidly.*

close out

1 **close out** *sth* | **close** *sth* **out**

to prevent light or noise from reaching a place by closing windows, curtains etc: *He shut the windows, closing out the noise from the schoolyard across the road.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **block out, shut out**

2 **close out** *sth* | **close** *sth* **out**

to make something end, especially a sports game or competition: *Friday's game against Texas will close out the regular season.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

3 **close out** *sth* | **close** *sth* **out**

AmE if a store closes out on a type of goods, it sells all of them cheaply: *Manufacturers who want to close out a line of goods can often sell them to discount stores.*

+ on *Marshall's usually closes out on their summer lines in August.*

4 **close out** *sth*

AmE if you close out a bank account, you take all your money from it and say that you no longer want the account: *At the year's end, all temporary accounts are closed out.*

5 **close** *sb* **out** | **close out** *sb*

AmE to refuse to include someone in a group or an activity: *Swedish companies fear that the EU will close them out of trade agreements.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **exclude, shut out** especially BrE

C

close up

1 **close up** *sth* | **close** *sth* **up** | **close up**

if someone closes up a house, shop, or other building, or it closes up, they shut and lock it and leave it: *I managed to get to the store just before it closed up for the night.* | *We decided to close up the house for the winter and go abroad.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shut up**

C

2 **close up** *sth* | **close** *sth* **up**

if you close up a book, bag etc, you shut it: *She quickly put her money away and closed up her bag.* | *Mr Martin closed up the file and handed it to me across his desk.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shut, close**

3 **close up**

if people close up, they move nearer together: *The crowd around me had closed up, and there was no way that I could leave.*

4 **close up**

if something such as a wound or a hole closes up, the sides join together and it disappears: *It'll take a few weeks for a deep cut like this to close up completely.*

5 **close up** *sth* | **close** *sth* **up**

if you close something up, for example a wound or a hole, you join the sides together or you cover it: *One of the student doctors was given the task of closing up the wound.*

CLOUD

clouded, clouded, clouding

cloud over

1 **the sky clouds over/it clouds over**

if the sky clouds over, it becomes covered with clouds and the sun disappears: *The sky was starting to cloud over and we decided to go indoors.* | *In the afternoon it clouded over and cooled down a bit.*

2 **sb's face clouds over/sb's eyes cloud over**

if someone's face or eyes cloud over, they suddenly look sad, worried, or angry: *When I mentioned her name, his face suddenly clouded over.* | *Her eyes clouded over with the pain of the memory.*

CLOWN

clowned, clowned, clowning

clown around
ALSO **clown about** *BrE*

clown around/about

to behave in a silly or funny way, especially in order to make people laugh: *He was one of those people who are always clowning around, never taking anything seriously.* | *She loves clowning around in front of an audience.*

CLUB

clubbed, clubbed, clubbing

club together

club together

BrE if a group of people club together to pay for something, they all give some money and share the cost together: *We all clubbed together to buy her a leaving present.*

CLUE

clued, clued, clueing

clue in

clue *sb* **in**

informal to give someone information about something new or something that they need to know

+ on *Mark's already clued me in on what's been happening while I've been away.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fill in**

clued up/in
ALSO **be clued up** *BrE*
be clued in *AmE*

Informal to know a lot about something and understand it well: *Ask Margaret, she's pretty clued up about that sort of thing.*

+ on *Choosing the right wine can be confusing, especially if you're not sufficiently clued in on all the different brands available.*

CLUMP

clumped, clumped, clumping

clump together

clump together | **clump** *sth* **together** | **clump together** *sth*

if you clump things together or they clump together, they form a tight group or a solid mass: *Grow the plants clumped together rather than singly.* | *These cells tend to clump together in the blood.*

CLUSTER

clustered, clustered, clustering

cluster around
ALSO **cluster round** *BrE*

cluster around/round *sb/sth*

to form a very close group around someone or something: *Afterwards, dozens of people clustered around the speaker, waiting to ask*

him questions. | *Everyone was clustering around fires, trying to keep warm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gather around/round**

CLUTCH

clutched, clutched, clutching

clutch at

1 **clutch at** *sth*

to try to get hold of something by moving your hand quickly and suddenly, especially to save yourself from falling: *She clutched at a branch as she felt herself falling.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grasp at, grab at**

2 **clutch at** *sth*

to hold a part of your body firmly, because it is hurting: *In the middle of the night Max woke up groaning, clutching at his stomach.*

CLUTTER

cluttered, cluttered, cluttering

clutter up

clutter up *sth* | **clutter** *sth* **up**

to fill a room, or cover an area with too many things in an untidy or disorganized way: *Can't we get rid of these boxes – they've been cluttering up the office for weeks now.* | *Try not to let your computer screen get too cluttered up.*

COAST

coasted, coasted, coasting

coast along

coast along

to be fairly successful but without trying very hard and without making as much progress as you could: *In recent years the team has been content to coast along in the middle of the first division.* | *John Major coasted along to a fourth Conservative victory on the back of Thatcher's achievements.*

COBBLE

cobbled, cobbled, cobbling

cobble together

cobble together *sth*

cobble *sth* **together**

to make or produce something quickly and often not very well, especially using whatever you have available: *We cobbled together some lunch from the food that was left in the fridge.* | *It was hoped that the two leaders would cobble together some kind of agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock up** *informal*

COCK

cocked, cocked, cocking

cock up

cock up *sth* | **cock** *sth* **up** | **cock up**

BrE informal to do something badly, or to spoil an arrangement or plan, especially by making a stupid mistake: *We would have won the contract if I hadn't cocked it up!* | *Shearer cocked up the shot and missed by a mile.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*

cock-up N [C]
BrE informal something that has been done very badly, especially in an unnecessary and stupid way
make a cock-up of sth *He made a real cock-up of his speech.*

C

COIL

coiled, coiled, coiling

coil up

coil up *sth* | **coil** *sth* **up**

to wind or twist something into a series of rings: *I helped him coil up the rope and put it away.* | *Her long fair hair was coiled up on top of her head.*

COLLECT

collected, collected, collecting

collect up

collect up *sth* | **collect** *sth* **up**

BrE to gather several things together: *Martin collected up the coins, and put them in his pocket.* | *Collecting up the papers lying on the desk, she left the office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gather up**

COLOUR *BrE* COLOR *AmE*

coloured, coloured, colouring BrE
colored, colored, coloring AmE

colour in

colour in *sth* | **colour** *sth* **in**

to fill a shape or picture with colour using coloured pencils or paints: *The children were told to colour in the shapes they had drawn.*

+ with *Sam had coloured the roofs in with a red crayon.*

colour up

colour up

if someone colours up, their face becomes red because they are embarrassed or angry: *He stared at Mary, and she coloured up instantly.* | *Seeing the huge crowd in front of her, she colored up with embarrassment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blush**

C

COMB

combed, combed, combing

comb out

comb out *sth* **comb** *sth* **out**

to comb someone's hair or an animal's fur thoroughly, in order to make it straight or to remove things from it: *She was sitting in front of the mirror, combing out her long fair hair. | I washed my hair and combed out the tangles.*

comb through

comb through *sth*

to search through a lot of information or objects in order to try and find the information that you need, or an object that you want: *Police spent more than a day combing through every piece of evidence they could find. | We combed through Beatrice's possessions, trying to find an address or a phone number that could help us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sift through**

COME

came, came, coming

come about

come about

to happen, especially in a way that was not planned or expected: *The discovery of penicillin came about entirely by chance. | The Cold War came about because America and the Soviet Union were deeply suspicious of each other. | This increase in food production has come about through the use of technology.*

how did sth come about? *When did life begin on Earth, and how did it come about?*

come across

1 **come across** *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to find something or meet someone by chance, when you are not expecting it: *I came across a fascinating book in the library. | Jill came across her son's diary when she was tidying his room one day. | You must have come across some weird and wonderful people while you were there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stumble across**

2 **come across** *sth*

to experience a particular type of problem, situation etc: *I expect you'll come across all sorts of difficulties, but it's still worth trying. | The judge said that he'd never come across a case quite like that before.*

* SIMILAR TO: **meet**

3 **come across**

to seem to be a particular type of person or thing, or to have particular qualities

come across as (being) sth *Lisa's teachers always complain that she comes across as lazy. | In the interview, Madonna came across as being very intelligent. | His comments came across as rather unsympathetic.*

come across well/badly (=make people have a good or bad opinion of you) *People say he's a very nice man, but he comes across badly on television.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over** *especially BrE*

4 **come across**

if an idea or emotion comes across, people understand or notice it because it is clearly expressed: *What comes across very strongly in her letters is her wonderful sense of humour. | The Prime Minister's message came across with absolute clarity.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over** *especially BrE*

come after

come after *sb*

to chase or search for someone, often in order to get something from them or punish them: *Ned looked round and saw two police officers coming after him. | Isabel knew that Fitzlan would come after her, wherever she went.*

come along

1 **come along**

to go somewhere with someone or to go to the same place as them: *We're going to watch the football – do you want to come along? | You go ahead if you're in a hurry – I'll come along later.*

2 **come along**

if something new such as a job or an opportunity comes along, it becomes available for you: *This job came along just at the right time. | If a deal came along obviously I would consider it. | You really must take advantage of any opportunities that come along.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up**

3 **come along**

to arrive or appear somewhere – use this especially about something or someone that you have been waiting for: *A bus usually comes along every ten minutes, so you shouldn't have to wait long. | The police eventually came along and took the man away.*

4 **be coming along**

to be making good progress or developing in the way you want: *The doctor said that Richard was coming along nicely and would be able to go home on Friday.*

how's sth coming along? (=used to ask whether something is making good progress) *How are your guitar lessons coming along?*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on**

5 **come along!**

spoken, especially BrE used to tell someone to hurry or make more effort: *Come along, girls! We'll be late if we don't go now.* | *Come along, Rob. I'm sure you know the answer!*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on**

come apart

1 **come apart**

if a situation, relationship, agreement etc comes apart, it is not possible to make it work successfully any more: *The terrorists refused to hand in their weapons, and the peace agreement seemed to be coming apart.*

come apart at the seams (=used to emphasize that something has a lot of problems and is likely to fail completely) *His whole life seemed to be coming apart at the seams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall apart**

2 **come apart**

if something comes apart, it breaks or separates into pieces, often by accident, especially because it is not very strong or is in bad condition: *Bruce grabbed the book from me and it came apart in his hands.* | *You can't use this old suitcase – it's coming apart!*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall apart**

come around
ALSO **come round** *BrE*

● In British English, people usually use **come round**. In American English, people use **come around**.

1 **come around/round**

to come to someone's house in order to see them: *Valerie and John said they might come around this evening.*

+ for *Why don't you come round for a drink after work?*

+ to do *Could I come around and have a chat with you sometime?*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over**

2 **come around/round**

to move around a group of people or houses in order to give them something or to collect something from them: *The mailman usually comes around at about 8 o'clock.*

+ with *A waiter came around with glasses of champagne.*

3 **come around/round**

to start to agree with an idea that you did not agree with before, or to like someone that you did not like, because someone has persuaded you to change your opinion or you have thought about it for a long time: *My mother stopped speaking to me when I first married Tom, but she's slowly coming around now.*

come around to the idea/view etc that *A lot of companies are coming around to the view that older employees tend to be more reliable.*

come around to doing sth *We're hoping that they will eventually come round to accepting our offer.*

4 **come around/round**

if a particular time or event comes around, it arrives or happens as usual or as expected: *By the time spring comes around, I always feel ready for a holiday somewhere hot.* | *The World Cup will be coming round again soon.* | *The big day for my talk soon came around.*

5 **come around/round**

● In British English, people only use **come round** in this meaning. In American English, people only use **come around**.

to become conscious again, for example after an accident or operation: *She was in hospital for two weeks before she finally came round.* | *"It'll take a couple of hours for him to come around," the doctor said.*

6 **come around/round**

if a letter or message comes around, it is sent to a group of people: *An e-mail came around, telling us that the meeting had been cancelled.*

come at

1 **come at** *sb*

to move towards someone in a threatening way, especially in order to attack them: *I was just leaving the club when this guy came at me with a knife.*

2 **come at** *sb*

if a lot of information, problems, ideas etc come at you, you have to deal with them all at the same time, and this is often confusing or difficult: *Consumers have so much information coming at them about different products, that it is often difficult for them to choose which one to buy.*

3 **come at** *sth*

informal to consider or try to deal with a problem or situation in a particular way: *We need to come at the problem from a different angle.* | *New trainees, who come at the job fresh, can often teach us something too.*

* SIMILAR TO: **approach**

C

C

come away

1 **come away**

to leave a place: *"Come away," said the children's father, "it doesn't look very safe."*

+ from *We came away from the meeting feeling very optimistic.*

come away with the impression that/feeling that *I came away with the impression that they were not very happy together.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **leave**

2 **come away**

if something comes away, it breaks and separates from something else, especially because it is not very strong or is in bad condition: *Alex pulled at the door handle, but it came away in her hands.*

+ from *Large sections of the tiles had come away from the roof.*

come away with

come away with *sth*

to succeed in winning something, or in getting something that you want: *Nadia Comaneci competed for Romania in the 1976 Olympics, and came away with seven gold medals. | The negotiations should be fair and open, so that all sides come away with something.*

come back

1 **come back**

to return to a place: *My sister lived in Italy, and only came back home at Christmas. | When do you think you'll be coming back to work?*

+ from *He's just come back from a holiday in Mauritius.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return**

2 **come back**

to start to happen or be present again: *As soon as I do any exercise, the pain comes back again. | It took a long time for my confidence to come back after the accident.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return**

3 **come back**

to become fashionable or popular again, after being unfashionable for some time – used especially about styles of clothes, hair, music etc: *Apparently, the styles of the '60s and '70s are coming back.*

come back in *Some of the words that we used at school have come back in again recently.*

come back into fashion *I never throw away old clothes in case they come back into fashion.*

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

comeback N [C]
when something becomes fashionable again, or a famous person becomes popular again: *Aerosmith's comeback tour was a huge success, and won them a whole new generation of fans.*

make a comeback *Long boots are expected to make a comeback in the autumn. | The group made a terrific comeback when they were in their fifties.*

4 **come back**

if something from the past comes back to you, you remember it

it all comes back to you *She looked at the photograph, and suddenly it all came back.*

+ to *His name will come back to me if I think about it.*

5 **come back**

to reply with humour or anger to something someone says

+ with *When Maria insulted him, Billy came back with a witty reply.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reply, respond**

comeback N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
especially AmE a humorous or angry reply: *I can never think of a good comeback until it's too late.*

come back to

come back to *sth*

to talk about or consider a particular point or subject again, after you have stopped talking about it: *"Now," she said, "coming back to your original point..." | Spence kept coming back to the same old argument again and again.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

come before

come before *sb/sth*

to be brought to a person or group in authority in order to be judged or discussed: *Murphy's case came before Judge Holden at the Crown Court. | It was some of the most important civil rights legislation to come before Congress.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go before**

come between

1 **come between** *sb*

to spoil the relationship between two or more people, by causing problems or arguments: *In the end it was Jed's jealousy and pride that came between us. | My girlfriend's mother doesn't like me – she's always trying to come between us.*

2 **come between** *sb* **and** *sth*

to prevent someone from giving enough attention to something: *He was an ambitious*

man, who never let anyone come between him and his work.

come by

1 **come by** *sth*

to get something, especially something that is unusual or difficult to get: *How on earth did you come by these photographs – they're extraordinary! | I wonder how he came by so much money at his age.*

be hard/difficult etc to come by *Exact figures for unemployment are hard to come by.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get, obtain** *formal*

2 **come by**

especially AmE to make a short visit to a place on your way to somewhere else: *Can I come by tonight and get my stuff?*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop by**

come down

1 **come down**

to fall down from a higher position to a lower one, often to the ground: *Snow was coming down in huge flakes which soon covered the ground. | The ceiling looked like it might come down at any moment.*

2 **come down**

if a price or the level of something comes down, it becomes lower: *Do you think property prices might come down even further? | Interest rates have come down considerably over the past year. | Lottie had a terrible fever in the night, but by the next morning her temperature was coming down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall, decrease** *formal*

3 **come down**

to visit or move to the place where the person speaking is – use this especially when the place is further south: *Would you like to come down for the weekend?*

+ from *Corinne's coming down from New York for Thanksgiving.*

4 **come down**

to accept a lower price than you have asked, for something that you are selling: *They're asking £150,000 for the house, but they might come down a bit.*

+ to *In the end he agreed to come down to $2000.*

5 **come down**

if a building, wall etc comes down, it is destroyed because it is not wanted any more: *The Berlin Wall came down in 1989. | Eventually the old farm cottages came down, and modern housing developments went up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be demolished**

6 **come down**

if a plane comes down, it crashes to the ground, or it lands somewhere where it had not planned to land: *The plane came down in Bilmermeer, and there were no survivors. | Due to a severe sandstorm, the plane had to come down in the desert.*

7 **come down**

to reach as far as a particular point or place: *I'd love to have a garden that comes down to the river here. | His fine blond hair came down almost to his shoulders.*

8 **come down**

if knowledge, tradition, ideas etc come down to people, they have been passed from older people to younger people over a long period of time

+ to *Most of what we know of this civilization comes down to us in stories. | It's a tradition that has come down to us through several centuries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be handed down**

9 **come down in favour of/against** *sth/sb*

to decide to support or oppose something or someone, after thinking about it carefully

come down in favour of sth/sb *The President is expected to come down in favor of military intervention in Kosovo.*

come down on the side of sth/sb *When the German people had to decide whether Berlin or Bonn should be their capital, they came down on the side of Berlin. | The judge in the case came down on the side of the unions.*

come down against sth/sb *The Board of Directors came down against the merger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out**

10 **come down**

informal to gradually stop feeling the excitement caused by taking an illegal drug or by a very enjoyable experience

+ off *An addict coming down off heroin is in a dangerous and deeply depressed state.*

+ from *International matches are incredibly exciting, and players have to learn how to come down from them afterwards.*

come-down N [SINGULAR]

BrE something that is much less enjoyable or interesting than what you have been doing before, or than what you expected: *My next job was a bit of a come-down, but I needed the money.*

11 **come down**

if an order, message etc comes down, it is sent to people from someone in authority: *The order came down from the boss that we were to speed up the production and worry less about the quality. | It'll be ages before a decision comes down to us about it.*

12 **come down**

BrE old-fashioned to leave a university after finishing your course

+ from *Adrian joined the family firm after coming down from Cambridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leave**

come down on

come down on *sb*

to criticize or punish someone for something, especially severely and often unfairly: *Your manager will really come down on you if the job isn't finished in time.*

come down on sb like a ton of bricks (=criticize or punish someone extremely severely) *He made one tiny mistake and they came down on him like a ton of bricks.*

come down hard/heavily on sb *The judge came down hard on Davis, and sentenced him to six months imprisonment.*

come down to

1 **come down to** *sth*

if a problem or difficult situation comes down to something, that is the most important point or idea to consider

it all comes down to sth *It all comes down to money when you're trying to buy a house.* | *Sure, you have to have talent, but in the end it all comes down to having confidence in yourself.*

when it comes down to it (=this is the most basic and important point) *When it comes down to it, you have to remember she's only sixteen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **boil down to**

2 **if it comes down to it...**

spoken used to say that if something becomes really necessary, that is what you will have to do: *If it comes down to it, we'll just have to sell the house.*

come down with

come down with *sth*

to get an illness, especially one that is not very serious and is passed from one person to another: *Almost everyone in the office came down with flu.* | *I think I'm coming down with something – I feel really hot.*

come for

1 **come for** *sth/sb*

to come to collect something or someone and take them away: *The taxi's coming for us at 6 o'clock.* | *I've come for the curtains I ordered.*

2 **come for** *sb*

to move towards someone with the intention of harming them or making them go somewhere with you: *What would you do if a lion was coming for you?* | *He threatened to come for my daughter, unless I gave him the money.*

come forth

1 **come forth**

formal to appear or be produced from somewhere

+ from *Letters like this came forth from every corner of the nation.*

forthcoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a forthcoming event, product etc is one which will happen or be produced soon: *the forthcoming election* | *the band's forthcoming album*

forthcoming *formal* ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]
if money, information, help etc is forthcoming, it is given by someone or offered when it is needed: *Morris was informed that he was no longer in the team, but no explanation was forthcoming.* | *We've been assured that sufficient financial support will be forthcoming.*

2 **come forth**

AmE to give important information or ideas to someone

+ with *"Today I call on the congressional Democrats to come forth with their proposed spending cuts," Quayle said.* | *A group of Englishmen came forth a few months ago with claims that the UFO sightings were all a hoax.*

come forward

1 **come forward**

to offer or be willing to do something

+ for *Fewer and fewer people are coming forward for teacher training.*

+ to do sth *No one came forward to compete with Perot for the nomination.*

2 **come forward**

to offer to help the police or people in authority, by giving information to them: *People who are bullied at work are often too frightened to come forward.*

+ with *The police are hoping that new witnesses will come forward with more information.*

come forward with

come forward with *sth*

to suggest an idea or plan, or to give the money needed for something, especially after you have been officially asked for it: *The Guggenheim Foundation came forward*

with the funds necessary for the research. | *Delors came forward with detailed proposals for a range of reforms.*

come from

1 **come from** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

if you come from a particular place, you were born there or have your home there: *Most of our students come from Europe.* | *"Where do you come from, Jose?" "I'm from Brazil."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be from**

2 **come from** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to belong to a particular type of family or a particular social class: *Penelope came from a very rich family, who lived in Atlanta.* | *In our school we have kids who come from all kinds of backgrounds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be from**

3 **come from** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be made or produced in a particular place: *It was a beautiful nineteenth century vase, which came from Italy.* | *Their electricity comes from three power stations on the coast.*

4 **come from** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be obtained from somewhere, or to develop from something: *Where did your information come from?* | *Three important lessons came from this experience.* | *A lot of English words come from Latin.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be derived from**

5 **understand know where** *sb's* **coming from**

spoken informal to understand someone's character or attitude to something, or why someone says something: *I find I disagree with her all the time – I just don't understand where she's coming from.* | *I've had a few problems with Lisa in the past, so I know where you're coming from.*

come in

1 **come in**

to enter a room or a building – used especially when asking someone to enter the room or building that you are in: *"Come in!" said a deep voice from inside the room.* | *Would you like to come in and have a drink?*

2 **come in**

to come to the place where you work: *Which days are you coming in this week?* | *Don't forget to telephone the office if you're not coming in.*

3 **come in**

if a train, bus, plane, or ship comes in, it arrives at a station, airport, or port: *What time should the train from Boston come in?* | *Crowds of people were down at the port, waiting for the ship to come in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **arrive**

incoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
travelling towards a place and arriving soon: *incoming passengers*| *incoming flights*

4 **come in**

to come to your house, office etc in order to do some work for you: *Tina, the housekeeper, comes in three times a week.* | *The builders are coming in during August, while we're on holiday.*

C

5 **come in**

if something such as a report, a letter, a telephone call etc comes in, you receive it: *The call I was waiting for came in at 9 o'clock on Saturday.* | *When reports of the disaster first came in, people found it hard to believe.* | *Several job offers had come in, but none of them were what I wanted.*

incoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
an incoming message or telephone call is one that you receive: *incoming messages*

6 **come in**

to become involved in or part of a plan, organized activity etc

+ on *Everyone who joins the company is asked if they want to come in on the share purchase scheme.*

where/how sb/sth comes in (=what someone or something's part in a plan is) *It sounds interesting, but I'm afraid I still don't see how I come in.* | *We need someone who knows the area well, and that's where Mick comes in.*

7 **come in**

if money or work comes in, you earn it or get it: *We never had enough money – we spent it as soon as it came in.* | *Have you got much work coming in at the moment?* | *Engineering firms say they have a lot of new orders coming in this year.*

income N [C]
the amount of money that you earn each month or year: *an annual income of £28,000*

8 **come in**

to finish a race, competition etc in a particular position, or within a particular time: *The favourite horse only just finished the race, coming in way behind the others.*

come in first/second etc *In the women's competition, Irina Slutskaya of Russia came in first.*

9 **come in**

if something in a shop comes in, a supply of it reaches the shop and becomes available: *Our winter coats don't usually come in until*

September. | Thousands of copies of the song sold out as soon as they came in.

10 **come in**

BrE if a new law or something that has recently been invented comes in, it starts to be used and to have an effect: *A new law came in today requiring all bars and restaurants in Athens to close by 2 am. | In the early '80s, computers were just starting to come in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be introduced**

C

11 **come in**

if a new fashion comes in, it starts to be fashionable: *Bright colours are coming in again for this summer. | When did short skirts first come in?*

12 **come in useful/handy**

to be useful for something: *Keep that box – it might come in handy for something. | My medical training's come in very useful in a lot of different ways.*

13 **come in**

to get a position of power, or start to do an important job: *"The last thing we need now is for the Socialists to come in and wreck the economy," Michael said.*

+ as *Bastiaens came in as chief executive and took over the running of the company.*

incoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
an incoming government, official etc has recently been elected or chosen for that position: *the incoming government*

14 **come in**

BrE to join a conversation or discussion, often by interrupting someone: *Excuse me, can I come in here?*

+ on *Then George suddenly came in on the conversation too.*

15 **come in**

to cost or be a particular amount – used in business to talk about the figures involved in something

+ at *We were quoted $60 a square yard to do this work, and now it's coming in at $150. | If the national wheat crop comes in at only 30 bushels an acre, prices will stay high.*

16 **the tide/sea comes in**

when the tide comes in, the sea moves towards the land. The tide is the regular movement of the sea, caused by the moon: *It's only safe to swim here when the tide's coming in.*

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

incoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
an incoming tide is coming further in to the land: *The rocks were slowly being covered by the incoming tide.*

17 **come in**

BrE if a season or a month comes in, it begins: *The winter came in early that year, and lasted through till April.*

come in for

come in for criticism, praise etc

to be criticized, praised etc for something: *The police have come in for criticism for not providing enough officers. | In Dr Yates' speech, Samuel Whitbread came in for special praise.*

come into

1 **come into effect/force/operation/use**

if a new law, tax, agreement, or system comes into effect etc, it begins to be used and to have an effect: *The new tax came into operation on April 1st. | In 1952, the peace treaty came into effect. | New restrictions designed to make it more difficult for people to smoke, came into force today.*

2 **come into being/existence**

if something, for example a country or organization, comes into being, it starts to exist: *The Mali Empire soon came into being, and spread along the banks of the Niger. | Weinreich argues that the Yiddish language came into existence when Jews moved to Germany around the year 1100.*

3 **come into sight/view**

if something comes into sight or view, you begin to be able to see it: *We finally reached the top of the hill, and the town came into view.*

4 **come into it**

spoken to be an important part of a situation, or be something that you must consider: *You have to consider my feelings too – don't they come into it? | I didn't want to be unemployed, not only because of the money – pride came into it as well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter into**

5 **come into office/power**

to start to have a position of power – used especially about governments: *When the government came into power, unemployment was 1.25 million.*

6 **come into money/land/a fortune etc**

to receive money, land etc from someone who has died: *Apparently she came into an enormous sum of money from her grandmother. | When the Duke dies, his oldest son will come into the estate.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inherit**

come of

come of *sth*

to happen as the result of a situation, or of something that you do

something/nothing comes of sth *I've written a long letter to the school, and I hope something comes of it.* | *If nothing came of the interview, Joe knew he could always work for his father.*

that's what comes of sth BrE *Lisa failed her music exam – that's what comes of not practising.*

come off

1 **come off** **come off** *sth*

to stop being connected to something, or to stop sticking to sth: *My bicycle chain's come off again.* | *This white paint will never come off my clothes.*

2 **come off well/badly/best/worst etc**

to be more or less successful or fortunate compared with someone else, for example in an argument, fight, or competition: *Anthony wasn't as intelligent as Geoffrey, and always came off worse in an argument.* | *Even leopards sometimes come off second-best in a fight with a bear.* | *Compared to its competitors, the company has come off badly, with profits of only $17.9 million.*

3 **come off**

if something that you have been planning or intend to do comes off, it happens or is successful: *We've been thinking of going on a trip to Africa for years, but I don't think it'll ever come off.* | *Apple wanted to merge with Sun Microsystems, but the deal hasn't come off yet.* | *The ceremony had been carefully organized and it came off without any problems.* | *Irene was trying to be funny, but the joke didn't quite come off.*

4 **come off it!**

spoken informal used to tell someone that what they have just said is wrong or stupid, in your opinion: *"I'm thinking of studying medicine." "Come off it! You can't even stand the sight of blood!"*

5 **come off** *sth*

to stop taking drugs, medicine, or alcohol, especially after taking them for a long time: *It can take years to come off heroin.* | *Clapton finally came off the booze and the drugs and started playing great music again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get off**

come off as

come off as *sth*

AmE to seem like you have a particular attitude or quality because of something you say or do: *Miller sometimes comes off as egotistical and unkind, but he's really a good person.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across**

come on

1 **come on!**

spoken

a used to tell someone to come with you somewhere, or to hurry: *Come on, Luke, let's go inside.* | *Come on, you two! It's time to get up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come along**

b used to encourage someone to do something, or to try harder: *Come on, George, give me a kiss.* | *"Come on," urged Marie, "You can tell me what's wrong."* | *Come on United! Let's have another goal!*

c used to tell someone that you do not believe or agree with what they have just said: *Come on, John. You didn't think I'd believe that, did you?* | *Oh, come on. She's a lot older than that.*

d used to comfort someone or tell them not to worry: *Come on. Everything's going to be fine.*

2 **come on in/over/up etc**

spoken used to tell someone to come in, over, up etc: *"Come on in," Miller said, "Make yourself at home."* | *Karen leaned out of her bedroom window. "Come on up," she said.*

3 **come on**

to start working – use this especially about lights, a piece of equipment, or a heating system: *The front door light will come on automatically when it gets dark.* | *My hi-fi comes on and wakes me up at 7 o'clock.* | *Why hasn't the heating come on yet?*

● OPPOSITE: **go off**

4 **come on**

if a television or radio programme comes on, it begins: *The news usually comes on after 'Neighbours', doesn't it?*

5 **come on** **come on** *sth*

to appear on a stage, in a film, or on television or radio: *He's one of those actors that make you laugh every time they come on.*

come on stage/television/radio *Then President Clinton came on television and repeated Gore's message.*

* SIMILAR TO: **appear**

6 **come on**

especially BrE to start to take part in a game of football, especially instead of another player: *When Batty came on, Fairclough dropped back into the centre of defence.* | *The game changed in Villa's favour when Paul Merson came on as substitute after half-time.*

C

7 **come on**

to improve, especially in something you are learning, or to make progress: *Joe's really come on a lot since he went to his new school.*

how's sth/sb coming on? (=what progress is something or someone making) *How's all your building work coming on?*

* SIMILAR TO: **be coming along**

8 **come on strong**

C

to start to be very successful, or do something very well: *In recent months, Cuba have been coming on strong, twice beating the US in World League play.* | *Los Angeles, coming on strong as an arts centre, is getting its first big antiques fair in May.*

9 **come on**

if an illness or a pain comes on, you start to get the illness or feel the pain: *I think I have a cold coming on.* | *Nick said he had a headache coming on, so he's gone back to the house.*

10 **come on** **come on** *sth*

to start speaking to you on the telephone, often after someone else has just finished: *Then my mother came on, and started asking me if I was eating properly.*

come on the line/phone *Sherman dialled the number in front of him, and waited for Levy to come on the line.*

11 **come on**

if a particular season, period of time, or type of weather comes on, it starts or is nearly starting: *A lot of birds fly further south as winter comes on.* | *Evening was coming on, so we found some dry wood and lit a fire.* | *The rain suddenly came on so hard that we stopped and sheltered in a doorway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **approach**

12 **come on** *sb/sth*

literary to meet someone or find something by chance or when you do not expect it: *Turning the corner, we came on a group of about fifty cyclists.* | *I was just in the library one day, when I came on this quite extraordinary book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across, come upon, chance upon/on**

come on to

1 **come on to** *sb*

informal to make it very clear to someone that you are sexually interested in them, from the way you behave: *There was this girl at the bar – we'd only just met and she started coming on to me!*

come-on N [SINGULAR]
informal something that you do or say that is clearly intended to attract someone sexually

give sb the come-on *She was definitely giving me the come-on, with her gorgeous big green eyes.*

2 **come on to** *sth*

spoken to start talking or writing about a particular subject or idea, especially after talking or writing about other things: *I'll come on to that point in more detail later.* | *We began to wonder whether the speaker would ever come on to the subject we had come to hear about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get onto/get on to**

come out

1 **come out**

to leave a room, building, or place where you are hiding: *"Come out!" shouted the police officer. "We know you're in there!"*

+ of *Donald came out of his office, looking tired and worried.*

2 **come out**

to leave prison, hospital, the army etc after completing the amount of time you have to spend in it: *I'm going to pick up my Mum from hospital. She's coming out today.*

+ of *Nelson Mandela came out of jail without having changed any of his demands.*

3 **come out**

to go somewhere with someone in order to enjoy yourself socially: *Jack said he couldn't come out tonight because he has an exam tomorrow.*

+ for *What about coming out for a meal with all of us?*

4 **come out**

if something comes out of somewhere, it is produced there and spreads out from there: *The window was open onto the street, and music was coming out.*

+ of *I looked and saw that blood was coming out of his mouth.* | *Our companies should take a close look at the new technology coming out of Japan.*

5 **come out**

if a book, piece of music, film etc comes out, it becomes available to buy in the shops, or to see at the cinema: *People are always waiting for Terry Pratchett's next book to come out.* | *When the movie came out, it was an instant success and made a lot of money.* | *The National Geographic comes out once a month.*

6 **come out**

if something comes out, it is removed or separated from its place or the place where it should be: *I gave the tooth a sharp pull, and it came out really easily.* | *The key had got stuck in the door and it wouldn't come out.*

+ of *Just a minute – the plug's come out of its socket.*

7 **come out**

if the true information about something comes out, it becomes known, especially after being kept secret: *I knew that Ruth had problems, but it was several months before the truth came out.* | *The President had publicly promised that the full facts would come out.*

it came out that *It eventually came out that Mandelson had borrowed nearly £400,000.*

8 **come out**

if results, figures etc come out, they are given to people or made public: *The exam results don't come out until the end of August.* | *I'd like to see our latest sales figures as soon as they come out.*

9 **come out**

if a particular quality or fact comes out, you notice that it exists for the first time, or more than you did before: *He's a very quiet man, but his understanding of people comes out in his writing.* | *None of these difficulties came out until we were half way through the project.*

10 **come out**

used when saying how good or bad something was

come out well/badly/ahead etc *It took him a long time to write the book, but it came out really well.*

come out on top (=be judged to be better than the others) *Of all the washing-machines in the survey, this one came out on top.*

how did sth come out? *How did that dress you were making come out?*

11 **come out**

if something you say comes out in a particular way, you say it in that way, or that is how it sounds: *I tried to explain how I feel, but it all came out wrong, and she just walked out and left me.*

+ as *"But why?" Kelly's question came out as a loud protest.*

12 **come out**

if the sun, moon, or stars come out, they appear in the sky after being hidden: *Just as we were about to leave the beach, the sun came out.*

● OPPOSITE: **go in**

13 **come out**

if marks or colours come out of something, especially something made of cloth, they disappear or become less strong when you clean or wash them: *I don't think this stain will come out, whatever I do.* | *You should really wash dark clothes separately, in case the colour comes out of them.*

14 **come out in favour of/against** *sth/sb*

to publicly support or oppose a particular idea, plan, person, or organization

come out in favour/favor of sth/sb *Many Democrats, concerned about their popularity, have come out in favor of the anti-gay-marriage bill.*

come out in support of sth/sb *Bardot has come out in support of Le Pen, the leader of the French National Front party.*

come out against sth/sb *Martin Luther King came out against the Vietnam War.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come down**

C

15 **come out**

to tell people that you are gay, instead of keeping it secret. People who are gay have sexual relationships with people of their own sex: *Nigel had been gay for years before he finally decided to come out.*

16 **come out**

to admit something that you feel embarrassed or ashamed about, after keeping it secret

come out and say/tell/talk etc *Months later Julie came out and talked about what had happened.*

17 **come out**

to succeed in living through an unpleasant experience without being seriously harmed: *The two girls had been kidnapped and were lucky to come out alive.*

+ of *Of course there are arguments in every family, but most children come out of the experience without permanent damage.*

18 **come out**

if flowers come out, they develop and open: *Roses come out at the end of June, and again later in the summer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bloom**

19 **come out**

if a photograph comes out, the photograph is successful and the picture is clear: *That photograph I took of you came out really well.* | *The view didn't come out because there wasn't enough light.*

20 **come out**

if someone comes out to the country where you are, they travel there to visit or stay: *You're welcome to stay if you ever want to come out to Hong Kong.* | *Our daughter and her family came out to visit us for three weeks.*

21a **come out**

if something comes out at a particular place, it leads towards that place and often ends there: *Do you know where this road comes out?* | *The pipes from the bathroom come out at the back of the house.*

21b **come out**

if something comes out from a particular place, it appears there and leads away from that place: *There were several loose wires coming out from the wall.*

22 **come out**

BrE if workers come out, they refuse to work, especially until their employer agrees to their demands: *Other workers came out in support of the miners' strike.*

come out on strike *When their pay claims were refused, the teachers came out on strike.*

23 **come out**

old-fashioned if a young woman comes out, she spends time going to a lot of dances and other social events in order to be introduced to upper-class society: *Eighteen was considered the right age for a young lady to come out.*

coming-out party/dance etc N [C]
a coming-out party or dance is one given by a young woman's parents when she is being formally introduced to upper-class society: *I went to Ellen's coming-out party last week.*

come out in

come out in spots/a rash etc

BrE to develop spots etc on your skin, especially a lot of them: *I tend to come out in a rash if I eat certain foods.* | *Children should definitely see the doctor if they come out in spots.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break out**

come out of

1 **come out of** *sth*

to result from an activity, event, or process, especially one that has been deliberately organized: *A lot of interesting new ideas came out of the meeting.* | *Scientists are hoping that a new vaccine will eventually come out of their research.* | *I don't think any good at all has come out of this war.*

2 **come out of** *sth*

to stop being in a particular situation or state – used especially to say that a country stops being in a bad economic situation, or that someone stops being in a bad mood: *Various signs suggest that the economy may be coming out of recession.* | *The US was just coming out of a major financial panic.* | *"She seems very depressed." "Don't worry, she'll soon come out of it."*

3 **come out of** *sth* **well/badly etc**

if you come out of a situation well, you get a good result, or people have a good opinion of you: *Water companies come out of the study well, with profits of between 25%–54% of sales.* | *"Irene's gone to Hawaii on vacation." "Oh – she must have come out of her divorce quite well then."* | *I've just read a book about him. He doesn't come out of it very well – he seems very arrogant and selfish.*

come out with

1 **come out with** *sth*

to produce a new product, idea, plan etc: *Hewlett-Packard is coming out with a new version of its HP/UX operating system.* | *The German naturalist, Ernst Heinrich Haeckel, came out with a similar theory.*

2 **come out with** *sth*

to say something suddenly, especially something that is unexpected: *When I asked for his opinion, he came out with a long list of criticisms.*

come out with it *Martia took a deep breath and came out with it: "I've met another man."*

come over

1 **come over**

if someone comes over, they move to where you are in a room or other place, especially in order to speak to you: *Miguel came over and put his arm around me.*

+ to *An official came over to him and asked him what was in his bag.*

2 **come over**

to visit you at your house: *Why don't you come over this evening and we'll talk about it then?* | *Some of our relatives are coming over for lunch this weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come around/round**

3 **come over**

to travel to the country where you are now from a different country, especially one that is across the sea

+ from *A lot of unskilled workers came over from Ireland to work in the construction industry.*

+ to *Greg and Pippa came over to America, and stayed with us for eight days.*

4 **come over** *sb*

if a feeling or a change comes over you, you experience it and it affects the way you behave or look: *She knew he was watching her, and a feeling of panic came over her.* | *It was six months since I'd seen Bruce, and a change had come over him in that time.*

what has come over sb? (=used when you are surprised because someone has suddenly started behaving in a way that is very

different from usual) *I don't know what's cover over Mr Wechsler – he actually smiled at me this morning!* | *I don't know what came over me – I slipped my hand inside the dead man's jacket, and took his wallet.*

5 **come over**

especially BrE to seem to be a particular type of person or thing, or to have particular qualities

+ as *Mrs Robins came over as a cold strict woman who was always giving orders.* | *The band's new album comes over as both traditional and modern at the same time.*

come over well/badly (=make people have a good or bad opinion of you) *I was so nervous – I think I came over really badly in the interview.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come across**

6 **come over** *sth* **come over**

if someone's voice or a message comes over a phone, radio etc, it is sent or broadcast and you hear it: *The terrible news came over the radio that the President had been shot.* | *I picked up the phone and Will's voice came over loud and clear.*

7 **come over**

especially BrE if an idea, meaning, or quality comes over, it is clearly expressed and easy to notice or understand: *I know what you're trying to say, but I don't think it really comes over in this essay.* | *There was an air of sadness about her, that came over very strongly.* | *The same message is coming over again and again: we are slowly destroying the planet.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come across**

8 **come over**

to leave a group, team, or organization and join one that is competing against it

+ from *Patrice Tardif was one of the three players who came over from the Blues.*

+ to *By July large numbers of Charles' opponents had been captured or had come over to him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **defect** *formal*

9 **come over a bit funny/all romantic/rather faint etc**

informal, especially BrE to suddenly start to feel a little strange, start behaving in a romantic way etc: *I came over a bit funny after I'd had that second drink.* | *Towards the end of the evening he started coming over all romantic.*

come round *BrE*

SEE **come around/round**

come through

1 **come through**

if something comes through, you receive it – use this about something such as a message, phone call, official document, or permission to do something: *I was in Boston when the news came through about President Kennedy's son.* | *It was November before Philip's visa finally came through.* | *Hank's divorce came through sooner than he had expected.*

2 **come through** *sth*

to succeed in getting to the end of a dangerous or difficult situation without being badly harmed or damaged: *Chris was the only one who had come through the war unharmed.* | *Amazingly, our house came through the storm without much damage.*

3 **come through** *sth* **come through**

BrE to succeed in passing a test, or in proving that you are able to do something difficult: *Dwyer was allowed to take part in the final after coming through a fitness test without any problems.*

come through with flying colours (=do something very successfully) *This was Reagan's first tough presidential decision, and he came through with flying colours.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass**

4 **come through**

to move from one room to another: *Do you want to come through and have your dinner?*

+ to/into *BrE* *Come through to the sitting-room, there's more room in there.*

5 **come through**

to provide something that someone needs or has asked for, or to do what you have promised

+ with *The oil companies say they could come through with a cleaner fuel, but it would cost more.* | *The US came through with $1 billion in aid.*

come through for sb (=provide someone with the support or help that they need) *When Jim asked Donato for help, she came through for him, pointing out where more work was needed and offering suggestions.*

6 **come through**

if a quality, feeling, or idea comes through, it is noticeable to other people: *Bob was such a comedian – his humour came through so clearly.* | *What came through about the refugees was their courage and determination.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come across, come over** *especially BrE*

C

come to

1 **come to** *sth*

to reach a particular state or situation – used especially in the following phrases:

come to an end (=finish) *My stay in San Francisco was coming to an end, and I decided to visit Natalie one last time.*

come to an agreement (=agree about something, especially formally) *It was several months before we eventually came to an agreement.*

it comes to the point where (=used to say that you have reached a particular situation) *It came to the point where we could no longer bear to talk to each other.*

2 **come to a decision/conclusion/verdict**

to make a decision about something, or to decide what you think about something: *All the candidates were good, and it took us a long time to come to a decision.* | *By the end of the holiday, we'd come to the conclusion that camping in England isn't much fun.*

3 **when it comes to** *sth*

especially spoken used to introduce the particular subject that you are going to talk about or deal with: *When it comes to relationships, everyone makes mistakes.* | *Joe didn't sing or play guitar particularly well, but when it came to songwriting, he was a genius.* | *The government has had little success when it comes to education.*

4 **come to power**

to officially start to rule a country – used about leaders, parties, or groups: *The Communists came to power in China in 1949.* | *Nasser came to power in a nationalist revolution, which signalled the end of European domination of Egyptian affairs.*

5 **come to nothing/not come to anything**

to develop or not develop into something successful: *It was obvious that the relationship would come to nothing in the end.* | *I had a great idea for a book once, but it never came to anything.*

6 **come to** *sth*

spoken if you come to a particular point or subject in a discussion or speech, you start to talk about or deal with it after talking about others first: *There are reasons for our decision, which I'll come to later.* | *I'm coming to the Labour party's proposal in a minute.* | *We now come to item three on the agenda.*

7 **come to** *sth*

to be a particular total when the numbers or amounts are added together: *At the end of the evening the bill came to $50.*

8 **come to** *sb*

if a thought or idea comes to you, you think of it or remember it, especially suddenly: *I've forgotten the name of the restaurant – it'll come to me in a minute.* | *The idea for the programme first came to us when we were in America.*

9 **come to**

to become conscious again after an accident or operation: *When I came to, I was lying in a hospital bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come around/round**

come together

1 **come together**

if two or more people, groups etc come together, they join together, especially in order to do something: *Palmer and Jones came together and started work on the research.*

+ to do sth *Several local groups had come together to form the new party.*

2 **be coming together**

if something is coming together, it is finally starting to be successful or develop as you want, especially when you have been trying to get it right for a long time: *Linda was just beginning to feel that her life was coming together.* | *A plan for an International Trade Centre is at last coming together.*

it's coming together *After five years of hard work it's all coming together, and their latest album has been a huge success.*

come under

1 **come under attack/criticism/threat/pressure etc**

if someone or something comes under attack, criticism, threat, pressure etc, they are attacked, criticized, threatened, face pressure etc: *Oil tankers and trucks on the roads from Iraq to Jordan came under air attack on January 29.* | *The report came under severe criticism.* | *Bush came under pressure to negotiate with Noriega.* | *Thousands of jobs came under threat when Powergen announced that it was cancelling its contract with British Rail.*

come under fire (=be criticized or attacked) *TV companies have come under fire for the amount of violence on our screens.*

2 **come under scrutiny/review etc**

to be examined or considered carefully, in order to make a decision or form an opinion: *During the coming year, all areas of the company will come under review.* | *The new policy came under intense scrutiny.*

3 **come under** *sth*

to be controlled or dealt with by a particular rule, authority, country, or person: *All doctors come under the same rules of professional conduct.*

come under sb's control/jurisdiction *Moldavia became a part of the Ottoman Empire, and then came under Russian control.*

4 **come under** *sth*

if something comes under a particular group of things, it belongs to that group, or is kept with that group: *Excuse me, do his novels come under fiction or literature?*

come under the heading/category of sth *Anger, jealousy and fear all come under the heading of negative emotions.*

come up

1 **come up**

to move towards someone or something until you are near them or next to them: *She came up and put her arms around him.*

+ to/behind/beside sb *A lot of people came up to me and started asking questions. | I looked in the mirror and saw a police car coming up behind us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **approach**

2 **come up**

to travel to or visit a place that is further north than where you are now, or that is in a city: *I thought I might come up to London for the weekend and see a show. | You must come up and visit us some time.*

3 **come up**

if an opportunity comes up, for example for a job, it becomes available: *Let me know if you hear of any suitable jobs coming up. | An opportunity came up to work in Ethiopia for a year, so I went. | If you keep on trying, I'm sure something will come up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arise** *formal*

4 **come up**

if a subject, name etc comes up in a conversation or meeting, it is mentioned or discussed: *We'd been going out together for two years before the subject of marriage came up. | The school needs some new governors, and your name kept coming up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be mentioned, arise** *formal*

5 **come up**

if a problem or difficulty comes up, it suddenly appears and you have to try and deal with it: *It's been one of those days when problems keep coming up all the time.*

something's come up *I'm afraid I'm going to be home late – something's come up at work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crop up, arise** *formal*

6 **be coming up**

if a particular event or occasion is coming up, it is going to happen soon at a definite time in the future: *Your birthday's coming up next month, isn't it? | The Annual Folk Festival is coming up on Saturday May 3rd. | Coming up in a few minutes on Central News: plans to make the centre of Oxford into a traffic-free zone.*

7 **come up**

if a legal case comes up, it is dealt with in a court of law: *Kate's divorce is coming up before the courts next week. | When the Louise Woodward case came up, the newspapers were full of it.*

8 **come up**

if information comes up on a computer screen, it appears there: *Click on 'Search', and a list of your options comes up.*

+ on *It was only half an hour until our plane left, and the number of our boarding gate still hadn't come up on the screen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **to appear**

9 **come up**

to reach a particular point or level: *When the river flooded, how far did it come up?*

+ to *Ed's quite tall now – he comes up to my shoulders!*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

10 **come up**

if the sun or moon comes up, it moves up into the sky where you can see it: *We got up early to watch the sun come up behind the mountains.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rise**

● OPPOSITE: **go down set**

11 **come up**

if a plant or seed comes up, it begins to appear above the ground: *If you plant the seeds now they should come up in about ten days' time.*

12 **come up**

if a wind or storm comes up, it starts and gradually gets stronger or worse: *It was hard work walking, with a strong wind coming up. | We were a mile out to sea when the storm came up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blow up**

13 **come up**

if a question or a subject comes up in an examination, it is one of the questions or subjects in the examination: *Did any questions on geographical locations come up in the exam?*

C

14 **come up**

to gradually become more successful by improving your position in your job or in society: *Douglas had spent twenty years coming up through the company to where he was now.*

come up in the world *Jo smiled as she parked her brand new Mercedes outside her house – she was coming up in the world at last.*

up-and-coming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] likely to be very successful in the future: *up-and-coming young artists*

C

15 **come up**

BrE if the lights come up in a theatre or cinema, they are turned on at the end of the play or film: *The show finally ended and the lights came up.*

16 **come up**

if a number comes up in a competition, you win something if you have a ticket with that number on it: *You'll win about sixty dollars if three of your numbers come up.*

17 **come up**

BrE if something comes up in a particular way, that is how it looks after you have done something to it: *I've washed all the curtains and they've come up like new.* | *If you let your hair dry in the sun, it should help it come up even blonder.*

18 **come up**

if food comes up, it rises from your stomach after you have eaten it, especially because you are sick: *Ben had eaten too many hamburgers, so it wasn't surprising when the whole lot came up again.*

19 **coming (right) up!**

spoken used to tell someone that the drinks or food they have just ordered will be ready very soon: *"Two Martinis, please." "Coming up, sir!"*

20 **come up**

BrE old-fashioned to begin studying at a university: *I came up in the autumn of 1953, to study medicine.*

come up against

1 **come up against** *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to be faced with a problem, or a difficult situation or person, and have to find a way of dealing with them: *Women in the police force often complain that they come up against a lot of prejudice.* | *Thompson described his commander as one of the cruellest men he'd ever come up against.*

2 **come up against** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to have to compete against a person or team that is very good and hard to defeat, especially in a sports competition: *The team were doing well at first, but then they came up against last year's World Champions.*

come up for

1 **come up for sale/auction**

if property, especially houses or land, comes up for sale or auction, it becomes available to buy. An auction is a public meeting where things are sold to the person who offers to pay the most money for them: *I'd really love to buy that house, if it ever comes up for sale.* | *A painting by Van Gogh came up for auction in 1990, and fetched £43 million.*

2 **come up for discussion/debate**

to be discussed, especially at a formal meeting, so that a decision can be made: *The issue came up for debate in Parliament three days later.*

3 **come up for** *sth*

to reach the time when something should be dealt with or done, according to an official system of agreement: *The case came up for review, and the men, who had already spent fifteen years in jail, were found innocent.* | *In November, one third of the Senate comes up for re-election.* | *When Checkland's contract came up for renewal, it was extended for only a year.*

come upon

1 **come upon** *sb/sth*

literary to meet someone or find something by chance or when you do not expect it: *On the second day we came upon the remains of a Roman villa.* | *Lovage and his men came upon a group of Mexicans camped somewhere in Fresno county.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across, come on** *literary*, **stumble across**

2 **come upon**

literary if a feeling or idea comes upon you, you suddenly feel it or think of it: *A wave of tiredness came upon her.* | *The idea for a party came upon them one Saturday morning over breakfast.*

come up to

1 **come up to** *sth* USUALLY NEGATIVE

BrE to reach a particular standard, or be as good as you expect something to be

come up to sb's/sth's standards *Many of Britain's beaches do not come up to EU standards.*

come up to expectations *We loved the island, but the hotel didn't really come up to our expectations.*

come up to scratch (=be as good as expected or as something should be) *Over a third of the schools in the survey didn't come up to scratch.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

2 **be coming up to** *sth*

BrE to be getting near a particular time or age: *It was coming up to two o'clock by the time everyone had left.* | *My oldest son's just coming up to sixteen.* | *Frank will be coming up to retirement in a year or two, won't he?*

* SIMILAR TO: **be approaching** *formal*

come up with

1 **come up with** *sth*

to think of an idea, plan, solution, or answer: *A good leader has to be able to identify problems and come up with solutions.* | *Morrissey was really good at coming up with great titles for songs.* | *I'm sure I can get the money, if you give me one more day to come up with something.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think up, think of**

2 **come up with** *sth/sb*

to produce a particular sum of money, or to find a suitable person or thing: *Anyone wishing to buy the company would have to come up with $8.5 million.* | *We've advertised several times, but so far we haven't been able to come up with a suitable candidate.*

come with

1 **come with** *sth*

if something that you can buy comes with another thing, it always includes the second thing: *All our garden furniture comes with a four-year guarantee.* | *Both models come with sixteen megabytes of memory.*

2 **come with** *sth*

if one thing comes with another, it develops or results from it: *Experience comes with age.* | *Good exam technique only comes with practice.*

3 **come with** *sth*

if one thing comes with another thing, the first thing is a natural part of the second: *Long hours just come with the job, I'm afraid.* | *Lack of sleep tends to come with being a new mother.*

come within

1 **come within seconds/inches/ a few points etc of doing** *sth*

used to say that someone very nearly does something, or something very nearly happens to someone: *Clinton came within two percentage points of winning Arizona.* | *Afterwards I realized I'd come within seconds of death.* | *The plane came within thirty feet of disaster, when it just missed a skyscraper.*

2 **come within sight/range/reach**

to be close enough to something to see it or reach it, or to be seen or reached

+ of *As Beatty came within sight of his office, he was surprised to see a small group waiting at the door.* | *Parts of Seoul were coming within range of North Korean heavy artillery.*

C

3 **come within the power/scope etc of** *sb/sth*

to be included in what a person or group has the power or ability to do: *It doesn't come within their power to authorize such a large sum of money.* | *The course is only for a week, so certain areas will not come within its scope.*

COMPOSE

be composed of

1 **be composed of** *sth*

formal to be made of a particular substance or substances: *Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.* | *The marble from which the Taj Mahal is built is composed of large crystals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be made up of**

2 **be composed of** *sth/sb*

formal to consist of a particular number or type of things, people, organizations etc: *The Kingdom of Tonga is composed of about 170 islands.* | *It's an association composed of more than 400 managers, bankers, lawyers and accountants.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be made up of, consist of**

CONCEIVE

conceived, conceived, conceiving

conceive of

1 **conceive of** *sth*

formal to imagine that it is possible for a particular event or situation to happen or exist: *Yuan found it difficult to conceive of life with any other woman but his wife.*

can/cannot conceive of (doing) sth *"I cannot conceive of a situation where the United States would want to use chemical weapons," Defense Secretary, Richard Cheney said.* | *Many Romanians couldn't conceive of voting for anyone except the party in power.*

* SIMILAR TO: **imagine**

2 **conceive of** *sth*

formal to think of a new idea, plan etc: *Dr Barnett conceived of the idea for the exhibition while she was working on a catalogue of Kandinsky's works.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think of, come up with**

3 | **conceive of** | *sth/sb* |

formal to think of something in a particular way or as being a particular thing

+ as *The Christian God has traditionally been conceived of as masculine. | Foch conceived of war as 'a struggle between moral forces'.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think of**

C

CONCENTRATE

concentrated, concentrated, concentrating

concentrate on

| **concentrate on** | *sth* |

| **concentrate** | *sth* | **on** | *sth* |

to give more attention to something or do more work on it than anything else, for example because it seems more important, or it interests you more: *She left the band in order to concentrate on her solo career. | Doctors are increasingly concentrating on the prevention rather than the cure of diseases. | The course is designed so that students can concentrate on the subjects that interest them most.*

concentrate on doing sth *The airline says it wants to concentrate on improving the quality of its service.*

concentrate your attention/efforts etc on sth *Lewis decided to concentrate his efforts on winning the World Heavyweight title.*

* SIMILAR TO: **focus on**

CONDEMN

condemned, condemned, condemning

condemn to

1 | **condemn** *sb* **to death/prison/ hard labour etc** |

to give someone a severe punishment after deciding they are guilty of a crime: *In 1814, Joseph Guillotin was arrested, tried and condemned to death. | Thousands of people were condemned to hard labour in the mines at Nerchinsk.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sentence to**

2 | **condemn** | *sb/sth* | **to** | *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are condemned to an unpleasant situation or way of life you are forced to accept it and there is nothing you can do to change it: *The island was condemned to centuries of colonial rule. | Animals used for experiments are often condemned to a life of misery and kept in tiny cages. | The accident condemned her to a lifetime of pain and disability.*

CONDOLE

condoled, condoled, condoling

condole with

| **condole with** | *sb* |

BrE old-fashioned formal to tell someone that you feel sympathy for them because they have problems or because a member of their family has died: *Mrs Williams died that night, and the next day the priest came to condole with her family.*

+ on *Aunt Dorothy would condole with my mother on my father's drinking.*

CONDUCE

conduced, conduced, conducing

conduce to

| **conduce to** | *sth* |

BrE old-fashioned formal to help to produce a particular quality or state: *thoughts that conduce to unhappiness*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead to, promote**

CONE

coned, coned, coning

cone off

| **cone off** | *sth* | | **cone** | *sth* | **off** |

BrE to put a line of cones (=large plastic objects) on part of a road, in order to stop cars from using it: *The fast lane had been coned off because of the accident. | The streets around the stadium were coned off by the traffic police.*

CONFER

conferred, conferred, conferring

confer on/upon

● **Confer upon** is more formal than **confer on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 | **confer** | *sth* | **on/upon** | *sb* |

formal to officially give a title, degree, or honour to someone, especially as a reward for something they have achieved: *Oxford degrees were first conferred on women in 1920. | the highest honour which the country could confer on one of its citizens | Otto had the title of emperor conferred upon him by the Pope.*

2 | **confer** | *sth* | **on/upon** | *sb* |

| **confer on/upon** | *sb* | **sth** |

formal to officially give someone the power or right to do something: *The Constitution confers on Congress the power to declare war.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give**

3 **confer** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

confer on/upon *sb* **sth**

formal to give someone a particular quality or feeling: *the sense of superiority that living in the area confers on some of its residents | Pregnancy seems to confer a feeling of contentment on some women.*

CONFESS

confessed, confessed, confessing

confess to

1 **confess to** *sth*

to admit that you have done something wrong or illegal, especially to the police

confess to a murder/crime/robbery etc *One of the men broke down during questioning and confessed to the murder.*

confess to doing sth *Kim Hyon Hui confessed to having planted the bomb which resulted in the death of all 115 passengers*

* SIMILAR TO: **admit**

2 **confess to** *sth*

to admit something that you feel embarrassed about: *During an interview the Princess confessed to a passion for bacon and tomato sandwiches.*

confess to doing sth *In the end, Mitchell confessed to not knowing the answer to my question.*

* SIMILAR TO: **admit**

CONFIDE

confided, confided, confiding

confide in

confide in *sb*

to tell someone something that you have not told other people, especially a personal problem, because you feel you can trust them: *Vera confided in me that she was pregnant, and was thinking of getting an abortion. | He had no one to confide in, no one to turn to for advice.*

CONFINE

confined, confined, confining

confine to

1 **be confined to** *sth*

to affect only one group of people, or to exist in only one place: *Domestic violence is not confined to any one group in society. | The drug problem is no longer confined to major cities, and has now spread to many rural areas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be restricted to sth, be limited to sth**

2 **be confined to** *sth*

to have to stay somewhere because you are ill or injured: *The Prime Minister has been confined to a hospital bed for almost seven weeks now.*

be confined to a wheelchair *Curtis is now confined to a wheelchair after a car accident in 1990.*

3 **be confined to** *sth*

to be forced to stay in a place such as a prison, and not be allowed to leave: *Lopez was sent to a maximum security prison where prisoners are confined to their cells almost 23 hours a day. | Once married, women are confined to their husband's house, and can't even go out on the street.*

4 **confine yourself to** *sth*

if you confine yourself to something, you only do that thing or only talk about that thing: *The examples are too numerous to quote, so I shall confine myself to two. | Margaret's paintings are most striking when she confines herself to a few bold colours, and a few bold strokes of the brush.*

* SIMILAR TO: **limit**

CONFRONT

confronted, confronted, confronting

confront with

1 **be confronted with** *sth*

if you are confronted with a difficult problem, decision, situation etc, you have to deal with it or face it: *Aid workers are now confronted with the task of feeding all the refugees. | She was confronted with a seemingly impossible choice. | If people are confronted with the realities of war, their attitude towards it changes completely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be faced with**

2 **confront** *sb* **with** *sth*

to show someone evidence that they have done something wrong or illegal, in order to make them admit it: *When she confronted her husband with the photographs, he suddenly became very quiet.*

CONJURE

conjured, conjured, conjuring

conjure up

1 **conjure up** *sth* **conjure** *sth* **up**

to make a picture, idea, or memory appear in someone's mind: *The word 'Mediterranean' conjured up images of sunshine, olive trees, and a crystal clear sea. | Summer for me conjures up thoughts of green meadows, the scent of freshly cut hay and the buzzing of busy insects.*

* SIMILAR TO: **evoke** *formal*

2 **conjure up** *sth* **conjure** *sth* **up**

to produce or make something very quickly and suddenly in a way that is surprising: *In the 59th minute Van Den Hornet conjured up a magnificent goal that brought his team to victory.* | *Grandma went into the kitchen, and within minutes had conjured up a delicious meal for everyone.*

CONK

C

conked, conked, conking

conk out

1 **conk out**

informal if a machine or car conks out, it stops working: *The washing machine has finally conked out.* | *Our car conked out on the way home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down**

2 **conk out**

informal, especially AmE to fall asleep quickly and completely because you are very tired: *Natalie conked out at around four a.m. in the middle of watching the movie.*

* SIMILAR TO: **zonk out** *informal, especially AmE*, **crash out** *informal*

CONNECT

connected, connected, connecting

connect up

connect up *sth* **connect** *sth* **up**

BrE to join something to the main supply of power, or to the telephone system, or to another machine: *We only moved in yesterday so the phone isn't connected up.*

+ to *Is the cooker connected up to the gas yet?* | *I've connected my speakers up to the television, so I get better sound.*

CONNIVE

connived, connived, conniving

connive at/in

connive at/in *sth*

formal to allow something illegal or wrong to continue by deliberately not trying to stop it: *The government knew about weapons deals with Iraq, and connived in arms exports instead of controlling them.* | *The report claims that drugs are freely available in our prisons, and that prison warders connive at drug abuse.*

CONSIGN

consigned, consigned, consigning

consign to

1 **consign** *sth/sb* **to** *sth*

formal to put something or someone somewhere, especially in order to get rid of them: *Natalie read his letter with increasing annoyance, and then consigned it to the trash can.* | *He preferred to take care of his mother at home, rather than consigning her to an old people's home.* | *Viv pulled out a purple dress that had long been consigned to the back of the wardrobe.*

2 **consign** *sb* **to** *sth*

formal to cause someone to be in a bad situation: *Poor education has consigned them to a life of poverty and street crime.* | *Cambodia was consigned to a decade of bloody civil war.*

* SIMILAR TO: **condemn to**

CONSIST

consisted, consisted, consisting

consist in

consist in *sth*

formal if something consists in a particular thing, that is the main part of it or the most important reason for it: *The beauty of Venice consists in the fact that it has so many different styles of architecture.* | *Freud's greatest achievement probably consisted in taking neurotic patients seriously and exploring their individual psychology.*

consist of

consist of *sth* NOT PASSIVE, NOT PROGRESSIVE

if something consists of particular things or people, they are the things or people that it includes: *a sauce consisting of minced beef, tomatoes, onion, garlic and seasoning* | *Her furniture consisted of a large brass bed, a wooden chair, and a small Chinese table.* | *The team consists of an editor, three full-time journalists, and a photographer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be made up of**

CONSORT

consorted, consorted, consorting

consort with

consort with *sb*

formal to spend time with someone who is an enemy, a criminal, or other person who people disapprove of: *They suspected that he had been consorting with the enemy.* | *The prince had spent his youth drinking in bars and consorting with prostitutes.*

CONSULT

consulted, consulted, consulting

consult with

consult with *sb*

to discuss something with someone before you make a decision, especially an important official decision: *The President consulted with European leaders before taking action.* | *After consulting with his lawyers, Harrison decided to plead guilty.*

CONTEND

contended, contended, contending

contend with

contend with *sth*

if you have to contend with a problem or a difficult situation you have to deal with it

have to contend with sth *The Prime Minister has to contend with constant criticism from members of his own party.* | *People who live near the stadium have to contend with crowds and damage to their cars.*

have sth to contend with *She's had a lot to contend with during the last few weeks. No wonder she's stressed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deal with**

CONTENT

contented, contented, contenting

content with

content yourself with *sth*

to decide to accept something or do something, even though it is not what you really wanted: *Meredith could not afford a new dress, and had to content herself with wearing the one she had bought last year.* | *Francis, who had hoped to be made Chancellor, had to content himself with the post of Minister for Agriculture.* | *Meredith was too tired to argue so she contented herself with an angry glare.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make do with**

CONTRACT

contracted, contracted, contracting

contract in

contract in *sth* **contract** *sth* **in**

if a company or organization contracts in a service such as cleaning, it arranges for another company to come into its building and provide that service: *Many companies now contract in services such as catering and cleaning.*

● OPPOSITE: **contract out**

contract in/into

contract in **contract into** *sth*

BrE to officially agree to take part in a system, for example for pensions or health insurance: *The company pension scheme was started last June, and since then 1500 employees have contracted in.*

● OPPOSITE: **contract out**

contract out

C

1 **contract out** *sth* **contract** *sth* **out**

if a company or organization contracts a job out, it arranges for another company to do it: *The hospital has contracted the cleaning and catering services out to a private company.*

● OPPOSITE: **contract in**

2 **contract out**

BrE formal to officially agree to not take part in a system, for example for pensions or health insurance: *The government is encouraging people to contract out of the state pension scheme and into personal pension plans instead.*

● OPPOSITE: **contract in/into**

CONTRIBUTE

contributed, contributed, contributing

contribute to/towards ALSO contribute toward *AmE*

contribute to/towards/toward *sth*

to be one of the causes of something: *Bill's drinking contributed to the end of his marriage to his first wife, Tammy Stone.* | *The new drug, one of the company's most successful products, contributed to a 7% rise in profits this year.* | *Scientists are trying to find ways of reducing our dependence on energy sources that contribute towards global warming.*

CONVERGE

converged, converged, converging

converge on/upon

● **Converge upon** is more formal than **converge on** and is mostly used in writing.

converge on/upon *sth*

if a lot of people converge on a place, they come there from different places and form a large crowd: *More than half a million sports fans converged on the capital today for the London Marathon.* | *In summer people from all over the area converge on Fernandina Beach.*

COOK

cooked, cooked, cooking

cook up

1 **cook up** *sth* | **cook** *sth* **up**

to make a meal quickly: *Neneh was in the kitchen cooking up a dinner of rice, chicken and black-eye peas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rustle up**

C

2 **cook up** *sth* | **cook** *sth* **up**

to think of a lie or an excuse, especially to stop someone from blaming you for something: *Rachel cooked up some excuse about her car breaking down, but I guessed that she'd been seeing Rupert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make up, concoct** *formal*, **invent**

COOL

cooled, cooled, cooling

cool down

1 **cool down** | **cool** *sb/sth* **down** | **cool down** *sb/sth*

to become cool or cooler, or to make something or someone cool or cooler: *We jumped into the swimming pool to cool down. | Let the engine cool down, and then put some water in the radiator. | Is your tea too hot? Do you want some more milk to cool it down?*

* SIMILAR TO: **cool off**

2 **cool down** | **cool down** *sb* | **cool** *sb* **down**

to become calm after feeling angry, or to make someone calm: *Perhaps when they have had time to cool down and think about it, they will reconsider. | McKim lost his temper so badly that he punched his friend George, who was trying to cool him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, cool off**

3 **cool down** | **cool down** *sth* | **cool** *sth* **down**

to stop developing or increasing, or to stop something from developing or increasing: *Greenspan raised interest rates last month to cool down the US economy and make it more expensive for businesses and consumers to borrow money.*

cool off

1 **cool off**

to become cool or cooler: *We'd been in the sun all day, so we went for a swim to cool off. | I took the bread out of the oven, and left it out on the table to cool off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cool down**

2 **cool off**

to become calm after being angry: *Maybe you should go away and cool off before we talk anymore.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, cool down**

3 **cool off**

if you cool off or your relationship with someone cools off, you stop feeling attracted to someone: *I know it was Valerie who finished with Rob, but I think he was beginning to cool off.*

COOP

cooped, cooped, cooping

be cooped up

be cooped up

to be in a place which is too small or does not give you enough freedom, and be unable to leave it

+ in *The prisoners are cooped up in their cells for most of the day. | It was lovely to be out in the fresh air after being cooped up in the house all day.*

COP

copped, copped, copping

cop off

cop off

BrE informal to meet someone and have sex with them or start a sexual relationship with them: *So, what's the gossip? Did you cop off while you were in Manchester?*

+ with *Who was it he copped off with at the Christmas party?*

* SIMILAR TO: **get off with** *BrE informal*

cop out

cop out

informal to avoid doing something that you should do or said you would do, because you think that it will be too difficult or you are too afraid: *We took a tent with us, but then copped out when it started raining and stayed in a hotel.*

+ of *He said that he wasn't going to cop out of making tough decisions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **duck out**

cop-out N [SINGULAR]

informal a way for someone to avoid doing something difficult or something that they should do – used to show disapproval: *The government lost its nerve, and in the end the Bill was just a cop-out. | The film raises interesting questions, but the sentimental ending is a complete cop-out.*

COPY

copied, copied, copying

copy down

copy down *sth* | **copy** *sth* **down**

to write something that someone has said or written on a piece of paper, especially so that you can remember it: *The teacher had written something on the board, and the children were copying it down.* | *Here's his address if you want to copy it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write down, note down**

copy out

copy out *sth* | **copy** *sth* **out**

if you copy out something that has been written, you write it all again on a piece of paper: *Hilary really liked the cake I made, so I copied out the recipe for her.* | *Johanna copied out the poem by hand, and mailed it to her Aunt Mary in Minnesota.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write out**

CORDON

cordoned, cordoned, cordoning

cordon off

cordon off *sth* | **cordon** *sth* **off**

if the police or army cordon off an area, they put something around it to stop people from going into it: *Police have cordoned off the street where the murder took place.* | *The US embassy was cordoned off and ringed with dozens of armed security police.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close off**

CORRESPOND

corresponded, corresponded, corresponding

correspond to

correspond to *sth*

if one thing corresponds to another, they are related or similar to each other: *The road took us past farmhouses, woods, and a lake, but nothing seemed to correspond to the map.* | *Employees' salaries correspond to their length of service, and how many children they have.* | *Reflexology is based on the principle that specific areas of the feet correspond to different parts of the body.*

COST

cost, cost, costing

cost out/up

cost out/up *sth* | **cost** *sth* **up/out**

BrE to do a calculation to find out how much something will cost: *We'll cost out the project and then see if we want to go ahead with it.* | *A builder came round to our house and costed up the job for us – he said it'd be about £2000.*

COSY

cosied, cosied, cosying

cosy up to

cosy up to *sb*

BrE to be friendly with someone who is your enemy or who you should not have a friendly relationship with, in order to get an advantage for yourself – used when talking about politics: *Blair has been accused of cosying up to the Liberals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cozy up to** AmE

COTTON

cottoned, cottoned, cottoning

cotton on

cotton on

BrE *informal* to start to understand or realize something: *I dropped about six hints before he finally cottoned on.*

+ to *At last, fashion shops are cottoning on to the fact that it's not only slim women who want to buy their clothes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch on**

cotton to

cotton to *sb/sth*

AmE to begin to like a person, idea, activity etc: *Workers who quickly cotton to their company's corporate culture are likely to be promoted.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take to**

COUCH

couched, couched, couching

couch in

be couched in

formal to be expressed in a particular style of language: *The letter was long and couched in incomprehensible legal jargon.* | *The treaty was couched in rather vague, ambiguous terms, and could be interpreted in a variety of ways.*

COUGH

coughed, coughed, coughing

cough up

1 **cough up** *sth* | **cough** *sth* **up**

to bring something into your mouth from your lungs or throat by coughing: *He looked very weak and pale, and then he started coughing up blood.*

2 **cough up** | **cough up** *sth* | **cough** *sth* **up**

informal to pay money for something or pay money that you owe, especially when you do not want to: *You owe me £10. Come on, cough up.* | *Waste Management Inc. told customers that they have to cough up another three bucks for December to cover the extra trash generated by Christmas.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pay up, shell out, fork out** *informal*

C

COUNT

counted, counted, counting

count against

count against *sb*

if something counts against you, it is likely to stop you from being successful: *Always dress well for work – an untidy appearance will count against you.* | *It's hard work applying for jobs, and I am always worried that my age will count against me.* | *His lawyers thought that Woods' quiet, awkward manner could count against him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tell against** *BrE formal*

count among

count *sb/sth* **among** *sth*

to consider that someone or something belongs to a particular group, or to include them in the group: *Les was a brilliant performer, and I was proud to count myself among his close friends.* | *The former President helped bring about the Middle East peace process, and he counts it among his chief foreign policy accomplishments.* | *Auspex Systems Inc. is a rapidly expanding new company that already counts IBM and DEC among its customers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **include**

count down

1 **count down** | **count down** *sth* | **count** *sth* **down**

to count numbers backwards to zero before an important event starts to happen: *Ok, get ready to count down to midnight – five, four, three, two, one! Happy New Year!* | *The crowd were counting down the final seconds, when suddenly Eddie Johnson leapt up and scored.*

countdown N [C]
when someone counts backwards to zero before an important event, especially before a space vehicle is sent into the sky: *The countdown has begun at Cape Canaveral.*

2 **be counting down the days/weeks etc**

to be waiting excitedly and impatiently for something good that is going to happen: *Once December arrived, I started counting down the days until I would be home again with my family.*

+ to *"How are you?" "Exhausted. I'm just counting down the weeks to my vacation."*

count for

count for something

to be considered to be important or valuable: *It's nice to know that good old-fashioned moral values still count for something.*

count for nothing/not count for anything etc *The law counts for nothing in this part of town, where children as young as ten carry guns.* | *What I say doesn't count for much around here.*

count in

count me in!

spoken informal used to say that you want to take part in an activity that other people are planning to do: *If you're going to the beer festival this weekend, count me in!* | *"Mark, how do you feel about playing volleyball tomorrow?" "Count me in!"*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **deal me in** *AmE informal*

● OPPOSITE: **count me out**

count off

1 **count off** *sth* | **count** *sth* **off**

to count people or things aloud, especially in order to check if they are all there or to make sure that you remember them all: *Miss Bradshaw stood counting off the children as they got onto the bus.*

count sth off on you hand/fingers (=point or touch your fingers to help you count things) *Dexter tried to remember the names of the Great Lakes, counting them off on his fingers. "Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior..."*

2 **count off**

AmE if soldiers or people in a group count off, they call out a number when their turn comes, to show that they are there: *The soldiers counted off before beginning their training exercises.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **number off** *BrE*

count on/upon

● **Count upon** is more formal than **count on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 **count on/upon** *sth*

to expect something to happen and include it in your plans: *In Spain you can count on sunny, cloudless skies and a warm sea.* | *Waiters count on tips to supplement their wages.*

don't count on it! *"Maybe soon I'll have a grandchild." "Don't count on it, Mom," Roz winked. "I'm not the marrying kind."*

I wouldn't count on it *"Perhaps she'll change her mind and give me a second chance." "I wouldn't count on it if I were you."*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on, figure on** AmE

2 **can count on/upon** *sb*

if you can count on someone, you know that they will help you or do what you want: *George's mum is great – you can always count on her if you have any problems.* | *You can count on me. I won't let you down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on, rely on**

count out

1 **count me out!**

spoken informal used to say that you do not want to take part in an activity that other people are planning to do: *"Were going to the movies." "Count me out," said Jennifer, as she sank into the couch, exhausted.* | *"Tonight's special is duck feet soup." "Count me out!" said Albert. " I'll have the chicken."*

● OPPOSITE: **count me in**

2 **count out** *sth* **count** *sth* **out**

to count things, especially money, one by one as you pick them up and put them into a pile: *The teller counted out $500 in fifty dollar bills.* | *Joey took out a wad of banknotes and started counting them out on the table.*

3 **count** *sb* **out**

AmE to decide that someone is certain to fail: *Don't count the Colts out. This is going to be a tough, close game.* | *A lot of people count me out. They keep asking me: "When are you gonna retire?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **write sb off**

count towards BrE
count toward AmE

count towards/toward *sth*

to be part of and influence the final score, result, or total: *The work that you do over the three years counts toward your final degree.* | *Formula One has a new point-scoring system in which all 16 races count towards the title.*

count up

count up *sb/sth* **count** *sb/sth* **up**

to count the people or things in a group to find out how many of them there are: *The quiz master counts up the scores, and then announces which team is the winner.* | *We need to count up all the people that we want to invite to the wedding.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up**

count upon

SEE **count on**

COUPLE

coupled, coupled, coupling

couple with

sth coupled with *sth*

used to say that two things together cause something to happen: *Lack of rain coupled with high temperatures cause the crops to fail.* | *Better eating habits coupled with lifestyle changes mean that people in the US are becoming much healthier.*

COVER

covered, covered, covering

cover over

cover over *sth* **cover** *sth* **over**

to cover the top of something completely with something else, in order to hide or protect it: *He made a hole in the ground, emptied the contents of the sack into it, and then covered it over.* | *The planes were hidden in thick bamboo and covered over so that they could not be seen from the air.*

cover up

1 **cover up** *sth* **cover** *sth* **up**

to stop people from finding out the truth about something such as a crime or a mistake: *Confidential information was stolen from an office in the Watergate building, and Nixon tried to cover it up.* | *Hemmings stole a total of $150,000 from the company, falsifying the accounts to cover it up.* | *Although Yeltsin's heart attack was covered up by the Kremlin, it was obvious that he was not in day-to-day charge of the government.*

cover up for sb (=protect someone who has done something bad or wrong by trying to stop people from finding out about it) *Tammy Jones lied to cover up for her husband, saying that he had been at home with her on March 15th.*

cover-up N [C]
an attempt to prevent the public from discovering the truth about something: *The government immediately began a massive cover-up, blaming the demonstrators for the violence.*

2 **cover up** *sth/sb* **cover** *sth/sb* **up**

to cover something or someone with something, in order to hide or protect them: *We'd better cover up all the furniture while we're doing the decorating.* | *When the sun is very strong, it's best to cover yourself up rather than relying on sun screens.*

C

COZY
cozied, cozied, cozying

cozy up to

cozy up to *sb*

AmE to be friendly with someone who is your enemy or who you should not have a friendly relationship with, in order to get an advantage for yourself – used when talking about politics: *Bennett accused him of cozying up to the Democrats.* | *We cannot continue to cozy up to dictatorships just because there is money to be made.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cosy up to** *BrE*

C

CRACK
cracked, cracked, cracking

crack down

crack down

if people in authority crack down on an illegal activity, they become much stricter about making people obey the law, in order to stop it from happening – used in news reports

+ on *Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre wants to crack down on illegal immigration.* | *The Mexican authorities have been cracking down on drug-related crime.* | *He accused them of failing to crack down on terrorist organizations.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **clamp down**

crackdown N [C]
when people in authority become much stricter about something in order to prevent it from happening

+ on *a crackdown on drug trafficking*

crack on

crack on

BrE informal to continue working hard at something in order to try and finish it: *We've got a lot to do, so we'd better crack on.*

+ with *I'm hoping to crack on with the decorating this weekend.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get on** *especially spoken*

crack up

1 **crack up**

informal to become mentally ill and unable to deal with your life or work: *Vince worked a 12-hour day and never took weekends off – eventually he just cracked up under the strain.* | *I've left my car keys in the car. I must be cracking up!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall apart**

2 **crack up** **crack** *sb* **up**

informal to suddenly laugh a lot, or to make someone laugh a lot: *Everyone in the class cracked up when they saw what was written on the blackboard.* | *Stuart's face is so funny – he really cracks me up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crease up** *BrE informal*

3 **sth is not all it's cracked up to be**

spoken used to say that something is not as good as people say it is: *"Being famous is not all it's cracked up to be," said Whitney. "There's a lot of pressure on you."*

CRAM
crammed, crammed, cramming

cram in/into

1 **cram in** *sth* **cram** *sth* **in**
cram *sth* **into** *sth*

to push a lot of things into a very small space: *Jessica crammed her clothes into the bag.* | *Billy decided to see how many chocolates he could cram into his mouth at one time.*

2 **cram in** **cram into** *sth*

if a lot of people cram in or cram into a place, they go into it and fill it: *We all crammed in and Jill started the car.* | *Around 60,000 fans will cram into Lambeau Field today for the NFC Championship Game.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crowd in/into**

3 **cram in** *sth* **cram** *sth* **in**
cram *sth* **into** *sth*

to do a lot of activities in a short period of time: *We were only in New York for two days, so we tried to cram in as much sightseeing as we could.* | *You can cram an awful lot into two weeks if you want.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pack in**

CRANK
cranked, cranked, cranking

crank out

crank *sth* **out** **crank out** *sth*

AmE informal to produce a lot of something very quickly: *He cranks out detective novels at the rate of three a year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **churn out**

crank up

1 **crank up** *sth* **crank** *sth* **up**

informal to make the sound of something, especially music much louder: *We cranked up the volume and sang along at the top of our voices.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn up**

2 **crank up** *sth* **crank** *sth* **up**

to make an engine start working by turning a special handle: *Joe cranked up the engines, and the plane prepared for take off.*

CRAP

crapped, crapped, crapping

● **Crap** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

crap on

crap on

BrE informal to talk about something for too long in a way that is boring and annoying

+ about *Steve was crapping on about how good he is at his job, and how wonderful his boss thinks he is.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang on** *BrE informal*

CRASH

crashed, crashed, crashing

crash around ALSO crash about *BrE*

crash around/about

informal to move around making a lot of noise: *The guy in the flat upstairs came home drunk last night. We could hear him crashing around at 4 o'clock in the morning.* | *Some kind of animal was crashing about in the long grass behind us.*

crash down

1 **sb's hopes/dreams/world come crashing down**

used to say that someone fails to achieve what they want, or something bad happens to someone and they are very unhappy or disappointed: *Rover's hopes of winning the championship came crashing down last night when they lost 3–0 to Liverpool.* | *When Toni left him, his whole world came crashing down.*

2 **come crashing down/bring** *sth* **crashing down**

to stop working well or being successful, or to make something do this: *One by one the royal marriages have come crashing down.* | *If the housing market collapsed, it would bring the whole economy crashing down.*

crash out

crash out

spoken informal to go to sleep very quickly because you are very tired often in a chair or on the floor: *I was so tired last night, I got home and just crashed out on the sofa.*

* SIMILAR TO: **zonk out** *informal, especially AmE*, **conk out** *informal, especially BrE*

CRATE

crated, crated, crating

crate up

crate up *sth* | **crate** *sth* **up**

to pack something into a crate (=a big wooden box used for carrying goods): *The rhino was crated up and flown to the Mara game reserve in Kenya.*

CRAWL

crawled, crawled, crawling

be crawling with

1 **be crawling with** *sth*

if a place is crawling with insects, it is covered with them in a way that is very unpleasant: *I woke up and the sheet was crawling with lice.* | *I suddenly noticed that my pudding was moving – it was absolutely crawling with ants.*

2 **be crawling with** *sb*

if a place is crawling with a particular kind of people, it is full of them – used to show disapproval: *I went to look round the cathedral, but it was crawling with tourists.* | *We've got to get out of here – this place is going to be crawling with cops soon.*

CREAM

creamed, creamed, creaming

cream off

1 **cream off** *sth* | **cream** *sth* **off**

BrE informal to take the profits from something or the best part of something for yourself, your company etc in a way that seems unfair or illegal: *Most of the profits are creamed off by insider dealers.* | *The suggested increase in tax would cream off a good deal of the extra money that people now have.* | *Private bus companies just cream off the most profitable routes, leaving many people without a decent bus service.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skim off**

2 **cream off** *sb* | **cream** *sb* **off**

to take the cleverest or most skilful people in a group away from the others, and treat them in a special way or give them special training: *The more academic children were creamed off at the age of eleven and sent to grammar schools.* | *We employ lots of people at junior management level, and then cream off the best for top management positions.*

C

CREASE

creased, creased, creasing

crease up

crease up | **crease** *sb* **up**

BrE informal to laugh a lot, or make someone laugh a lot: *When he took off his pants we all creased up with laughter! | Jo could imitate anybody and always made him crease up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** *informal*

C

CREDIT

credited, credited, crediting

credit with

1 **credit** *sb* **with** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to believe that someone is responsible for something that has happened, especially an important change that has a big effect: *David Bailey is credited with changing British photography, breaking down class barriers with his striking images.*

2 **credit** *sb* **with** *sth*

to accept or believe that someone has a particular quality: *I wish you'd credit me with a little intelligence!*

CREEP

crept, crept, creeping

creep in/into

1 **creep in** | **creep into** *sth*

if a feeling creeps in or into something, you gradually begin to feel or notice it: *Doubt started creeping into her mind. Maybe he was lying? | It was one week before I started my new job and anxiety was creeping in. | A note of bitterness had crept into his voice, and I became aware of how angry he was.*

2 **creep in** | **creep into** *sth*

if something bad or unwanted creeps in or into something, it appears there even though people have tried to prevent it: *A few spelling mistakes always creep into every book. | Gang activity has slowly crept into the town over the past four years.*

3 **creep in** | **creep into** *sth*

if a word or custom creeps in or into something, people gradually start to use it: *A lot of American words are creeping into British English. | Western customs and values are slowly creeping in, and it's difficult for local people to hang onto their native culture.*

creep out

creep *sb* **out** | **creep out** *sb*

AmE informal to make someone feel nervous and slightly frightened: *The movie has a dark side that may creep out younger kids. | His long fingernails and weird smile really creep me out.*

creep over

creep over *sb*

if an unpleasant feeling creeps over you, you gradually begin to feel it: *The boat began to sway, and a wave of nausea crept over me. | He looked at me with his cold blue eyes, and I felt a chill creep over me.*

creep (up) to

creep (up) to *sb*

BrE spoken to pretend to like someone, especially someone in authority, and be very friendly to them so that you can get an advantage for yourself: *Nigel makes me sick – he's always creeping up to Diane, the lab manager.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suck up to, kiss up to** *AmE informal*

creep up on

1 **creep up on** *sb/sth*

to move closer to someone until you are next to them, without making any noise and usually from behind, so that they do not know you are there: *You shouldn't creep up on people like that. You nearly gave me a heart attack! | Armed men crept up on the van and opened fire with machine guns.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sneak up on**

2 **creep up on** *sb*

if a feeling or state creeps up on you, you experience it gradually, so that you do not notice it at first: *Old age is creeping up on me. I'm getting slower and feeling more tired than I used to. | Fatigue creeps up on you when you're stressed at work, and destroys your body's ability to resist illness.*

3 **creep up on** *sb*

if a time or event creeps up on you, it seems to happen sooner than you expected: *The end of term seemed to creep up on us. | Christmas has crept up on me this year – I haven't bought any presents yet.*

CRISP

crisped, crisped, crisping

crisp up

crisp up | **crisp up** *sth* | **crisp** *sth* **up**

BrE if thin food crisps up or you crisp it up, it becomes pleasantly hard, because you have heated it at a high temperature: *Fry the bacon at a high temperature to crisp it up. | Thin pizza bases are best, because they crisp up nicely.*

CROP

cropped, cropped, cropping

crop up

1 **crop up**

if something, especially a problem, crops up, it happens or appears suddenly or when you did not expect it: *Please let me know if anything crops up while I'm away.* | *He's had to go back to the office – apparently something's cropped up.* | *Three more cases of the disease have cropped up in Germany and the Netherlands.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come up, arise** *formal*

2 **crop up**

if a name or subject crops up, you hear it being talked about or discussed: *Your name kept cropping up in conversation.* | *Has the subject of money cropped up yet?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come up, be mentioned**

CROSS

crossed, crossed, crossing

cross off

cross off *sth/sb* **cross** *sth/sb* **off**

cross *sth/sb* **off** *sth*

to remove a word or someone's name from a list by drawing a line through it: *I've done the washing, so we can cross that off the list.* | *Jane said she won't be able to come, so I've crossed her off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cross out, delete**

cross out

cross out *sth* **cross** *sth* **out**

to draw a line through something that you have written, usually because it is wrong: *She crossed out the word 'Miss' and wrote 'Dr' instead.* | *He read the sentence again, then scowled and crossed it out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **delete**

crossings-out N [PLURAL]
BrE words that have been crossed out: *His essay was full of crossings-out.*

cross over

1 **cross over** **cross over** *sth*

to go to the other side of something or a place: *Each year thousands of illegal immigrants cross over the border.* | *We crossed over the bridge and followed the wet and muddy path along the bank.* | *Braddock's plan was to cross over the rugged Appalachian mountains, and attack the French at Fort Duquesne.*

+ to *Wade stood up and crossed over to the living-room window.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cross**

2 **cross over** **cross over** *sth*

BrE to walk from one side of a road to the other: *Make sure you look both ways before you cross over.* | *We crossed over the road to look at the shops on the other side.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **walk across, cross**

3 **cross over**

to start supporting a person or group that you opposed before: *The Republicans are putting forward a moderate candidate, in the hope that this will encourage disaffected Democrats to cross over.*

+ to *Churchill used to be a Liberal at one time, before he crossed over to the Conservative Party.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come over, defect** *formal*

4 **cross over**

if an entertainer crosses over from one area of entertainment to another, they become successful in the second one as well as the first

+ into *David Duchovny is one of many television stars who are trying to cross over into the movies.*

cross-over ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a cross-over musician or singer is one who plays a mixture of two different styles of music: *Cross-over jazz/blues artist Maria Muldaur will headline this year's festival.*

5 **cross over**

to change from being popular with just one particular group in society to being popular with people from all groups in society

+ to/into *Stevie Wonder and James Brown were among the first black acts to cross over to white audiences in the 1970s.*

6 **cross over**

if a disease that affects a particular type of animal crosses over, it starts to affect another type of animal as well

+ to/from *HIV had begun in African monkeys and crossed over to humans.* | *In the late 1980s, scientists discovered that the disease could cross over from cattle to humans.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass**

CROUCH

crouched, crouched, crouching

crouch down

crouch down

to bend your knees and lower your body so that you are very close to the ground: *I quickly crouched down behind the wall, hoping that they wouldn't see me.*

+ to do sth *Ben crouched down to examine something on the ground.*

CROWD

crowded, crowded, crowding

crowd around
ALSO **crowd round** *BrE*

crowd around/round

crowd around/round *sb/sth*

if a group of people crowd around someone or something, they come very close to them and surround them, for example in order to hear or see them better: *Everybody crowded around to have a look at the baby.* | *Hundreds of people crowded round the stage door, waiting for the stars to appear.*

C

crowd in/into

crowd in **crowd into** *sth*

crowd *sb* **into** *sth*

to go into a place in large numbers so that it is very full, or to make people do this: *The doors opened, and everyone crowded in.* | *Several hundred people crowded into the church for the funeral service.* | *The prisoners were crowded into a tiny dark room and left there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cram in/into**

crowd in on/upon

crowd in on/upon *sb*

if a lot of thoughts or feelings crowd in on you, you cannot stop thinking about them and they upset or worry you: *Too many thoughts were crowding in on her, and there was no solution to any of them.* | *Alvin tried to shut his mind against the fears that kept crowding in on him.*

crowd out

crowd out *sth/sb* **crowd** *sth/sb* **out**

if one group of people or things crowd out another group, the first group is so big and strong that it makes it impossible for the second group to succeed or exist: *Bigger software firms are crowding out smaller businesses.* | *The weeds will crowd out your other plants, if you don't get rid of them.*

crowd round

SEE **crowd around/round**

CRUMBLE

crumbled, crumbled, crumbling

crumble away

1 **crumble away**

if something made of stone, brick, wood etc crumbles away, it gradually breaks into little pieces and disappears, because it is very old: *The castle walls were slowly crumbling away.* | *Some of the floorboards were rotten and had crumbled away.*

2 **crumble away**

to gradually become weak and disappear, especially after being very strong: *Brigg's determination was slowly crumbling away.* | *The Roman Empire crumbled away over a period of about two centuries.*

CRUMPLE

crumpled, crumpled, crumpling

crumple up

1 **crumple up** *sth* **crumple** *sth* **up**

to crush a piece of paper or material, by pressing it into a ball in your hand: *George crumpled the page up and threw it in the bin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw up** *BrE*, **wad up** *AmE*

2 **crumple up**

to bend over suddenly at the waist or fall over, for example because you have been hit by something or you are in pain: *A bullet ripped into his flesh and he crumpled up in agony.*

be crumpled up *I found Laura all crumpled up in a corner of the room.*

CRUSH

crushed, crushed, crushing

crush up

crush up

BrE informal if people crush up, they move very close to each other so that their bodies are touching because there is not much space: *We can fit everyone into my car if you don't mind crushing up.*

be crushed up *The train was so full that we were crushed up against complete strangers.*

CRY

cried, cried, crying

cry off

cry off **cry off** *sth*

BrE informal to decide not to do something that you have agreed or arranged to do: *We'd arranged to go to Spain together and he cried off at the last moment.* | *Josh cried off the trip to town, saying he had a headache.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop out**

cry out

cry out | **cry out** *sth*

to suddenly shout something or make a loud noise, especially because you are afraid or in pain: *Did you hear anyone scream or cry out?* | *Sammy saw her in the distance and cried out her name.*

cry out in fear/horror/pain etc *Even the smallest movement made him cry out in pain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scream out**

cry out against

cry out against *sth*

to complain or protest strongly about something: *People have been crying out against the use of chemicals on farm crops for years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **protest**

outcry N [C]
when a lot of people complain or protest strongly about something

+ against/over *There was a public outcry over the decision to raise interest rates again.*

cry out for

be crying out for *sth/sb*

informal to need something very urgently: *The country was crying out for a period of political peace.* | *Small businesses are crying out for skilled workers.* | *Our criminal justice system is crying out for change.*

CUDDLE

cuddled, cuddled, cuddling

cuddle up

cuddle up

informal to sit or lie very close to someone and put your arms around them, in a way that shows you love them: *Why don't we just cuddle up on the sofa and watch TV?*

* SIMILAR TO: **snuggle up**

CULL

culled, culled, culling

cull from

cull *sth* **from** *sth*

formal to choose or collect things from various different places: *The statistics were culled from a variety of sources.* | *a collection of songs culled from five of the group's albums*

* SIMILAR TO: **take from**

CULMINATE

culminated, culminated, culminating

culminate in

culminate in *sth*

if a series of events culminates in something happening, it gradually leads towards it and ends with it: *A series of clashes eventually culminated in a full-scale war.* | *There is a minimum of sixty days' training, culminating in formal examinations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end in**

CURL

curled, curled, curling

curl up

1 **curl up**

to lie or sit with your legs and arms bent towards your stomach, because you feel comfortable, relaxed, or warm in that position: *"I like this music," said Rosie, curling up beside Hal on the sofa.* | *I crawled into my sleeping bag and curled up in a tight ball.*

be curled up *Mum was curled up with a book in front of the fire.*

2 **curl up**

if something flat curls up, its edges start to become curved and point upwards: *The photograph was starting to curl at the edges.* | *I put the leaf inside a book to stop it from curling up.*

CURSE

cursed, cursed, cursing

curse out

curse *sb* **out**

AmE to shout at someone, saying rude words, because you are angry with them: *In her diary Nicole wrote that her husband cursed her out and threatened her the week before she was murdered.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cuss out** *AmE*

be cursed with

be cursed with *sth*

to have a particular problem or disadvantage that makes you less fortunate than other people: *Since childhood she'd been cursed with a speech problem.* | *Rowan was one of those people who seem to be cursed with bad luck.*

CURTAIN

curtained, curtained, curtaining

curtain off

curtain off *sth* | **curtain** *sth* **off**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to put a curtain around a particular area in a room in order to separate it from the rest and make it more private: *The bed next to mine was curtained off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screen off**

C

CUSS

cussed, cussed, cussing

cuss out

cuss *sb* **out** | **cuss out** *sb*

AmE to shout at someone, saying rude words, because you are angry with them: *Cheswick used to cuss out the secretaries when he was unhappy with their work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **curse out** *AmE*

CUT

cut, cut, cutting

cut across

1 **cut across** *sth*

to go across an area of land instead of going round the edge of it, because it is the shortest way: *It only takes ten minutes to get to the village if you cut across the field.* | *The train takes the shortest route and cuts across the desert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut through**

2 **cut across** *sth*

if a problem or subject cuts across different groups of people, it affects or concerns all of them, or they all have the same opinion about it in spite of their differences: *The drug problem cuts across all social classes.* | *There were a lot of redundancies, which cut across every level of the company.*

sth cuts across party lines (=people from different political parties have the same opinion) *The abortion issue cuts across party lines in the US.*

3 **cut across** *sth*

BrE to be very different from another idea, method etc: *This idea was common in Ancient Roman times, but it cuts across the Christian view.* | *His methods cut across the established ways of doing things and were seen as revolutionary.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go against**

cut away

cut away *sth* | **cut** *sth* **away**

to remove an unwanted or unnecessary part of something by cutting it off: *Cut away any fat, and slice the meat into thin pieces.* | *Any dead wood needs to be cut away to make room for new growth.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut off**

cut back

1 **cut back** | **cut back** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **back**

to reduce the amount of money that you spend, or the amount of something that you use: *During the recession a lot of businesses had to cut back, and unemployment rose sharply.* | *Since the children were born, we've had to really cut back our spending.*

cut back on sth *The company has been told that it must cut back on research.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

cutback N [C]

a reduction in something, especially the amount of money you spend: *2,000 jobs will be lost because of civil service cutbacks.*

+ in *a cutback in defence spending*

2 **cut back** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **back**

to cut or remove some of the branches of a plant in order to encourage it to grow more strongly: *Raspberry bushes need to be cut back to within a few inches of the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prune back**

cut down

1 **cut down** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **down**

cut down

to reduce the amount, number, or size of something: *Could you try and cut down the amount of time you spend on the phone?* | *The government is looking at various proposals for cutting down the number of cars on our roads.* | *In the end the book had to be cut down, in order to meet the publication date.*

+ on *If we want to cut down on crime, we need to spend more on law enforcement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

2 **cut down**

to eat, drink, or smoke less of something that is bad for you, in order to improve your health or lose weight: *It's difficult to give up alcohol altogether, but try and cut down as much as possible.*

+ on *It's the fatty foods you need to cut down on if you want to lose weight.*

3 **cut down** | *sth* **cut** | *sth* | **down**

to remove a tree, or a lot of trees in a forest, by cutting them so that they fall to the ground: *Several trees had to be cut down before the building work could start.* | *Cutting down the rainforest has a terrible effect on the environment.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chop down, fell**

4 **cut down** | *sb* **cut** | *sb* | **down**

to kill or seriously injure someone with a weapon, especially a gun: *One of the women was cut down by a bullet while carrying her daughter to safety.*

cut in

1 **cut in**

to interrupt someone by saying something: *"Actually," Marc cut in, "that's not quite true."*

+ on *She has a very annoying habit of cutting in on people while they're speaking.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **interrupt**

2 **cut in**

if a machine cuts in, it starts to operate when it is needed: *The fan will automatically cut in if the engine gets too hot.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch on, come on**

3 **cut in**

to suddenly drive into the space between two moving cars when there is not really enough space for you to do this safely: *A blue Mercedes overtook me at 90 mph and then cut in right in front of me.*

4 **cut in** | *sb* **cut** | *sb* | **in**

informal to allow someone to take part in a plan, business etc, or to share the profits from something: *No one was very keen on cutting Sam in.*

+ on *Joey wants to be cut in on the deal.*

5 **cut** | *sth* | **in** **cut in** | *sth*

AmE if you cut in butter or other fat, you mix it into flour using a knife: *Cut in the butter until the mixture is sticky.*

6 **cut in**

old-fashioned to interrupt two people who are dancing, in order to ask one of them to dance with you: *"Do you mind if I cut in?" Mark asked, smiling at Katy.*

cut into

1 **cut into** | *sth*

to push a knife or a similar tool into something in order to make a cut in it: *She took the knife and solemnly cut into the cake.*

2 **cut into** | *sth*

to reduce the amount of time, money etc that you have available for something, by using up a lot of it: *Simon was now working a seventy-hour week, which obviously cut into his social life.* | *By that time I had two ex-wives to support, which really cut into my earnings.*

3 **cut into** | *sth/sb*

if something such as a rope cuts into someone's skin, it is so tight that it cuts the skin and hurts it: *The ropes began to cut into her flesh as she struggled to get free.*

C

cut off

1 **cut off** | *sth* **cut** | *sth* | **off**

to separate part of something completely from the rest by cutting it with a knife, scissors etc: *How much of your hair do you want me to cut off?* | *One of his fingers was cut off in the accident.*

cut-off ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
especially BrE cut-off trousers have been made much shorter than usual by cutting off the bottom of the legs: *Cut-off jeans were very fashionable that year.*

2 **cut off** | *sth/sb* **cut** | *sth/sb* | **off**

to stop the supply of electricity, gas, water, money, or goods from getting to a place: *If there is an earthquake, the electrical supply will be immediately cut off.* | *The US threatened to cut off economic aid to South Africa.* | *The gas company is threatening to cut us off if we don't pay the bill immediately.*

3 **be cut off**

if a place is cut off, it is very difficult to get to, for example because it is a long way from any other place: *Some of the mountain villages are extremely cut off, and can only be reached on foot.* | *Some villages and farms were cut off by snow for two weeks.*

4 **be cut off**

if the people living somewhere are cut off, they cannot communicate with other countries or people, for example because they are a long way from them, or because it is not allowed

+ from *Rumania was a Communist dictatorship, cut off from the outside world.* | *Prisoners were left alone for weeks, cut off from all contact.*

5 **be cut off by the tide/the floods/ the fire etc**

to be trapped and unable to leave a place because you are surrounded by water or by fire: *We'd better leave the beach by five o'clock or we'll be cut off by the tide.* | *Whole villages were cut off by the floods.*

6 **feel cut off**

if you feel cut off, you feel lonely because you cannot meet and talk to other people

+ from *I like working at home, but sometimes you feel cut off from other adults.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feel isolated**

7 **cut** *sb* **off** | **cut off** *sth*

to stop communicating with someone or having a friendly relationship with them, often because you are angry with them about something: *June came from a religious Protestant family, who cut her off when she married a Roman Catholic.*

cut off relations with sb/sth *In 1904 Japan cut off diplomatic relations with Russia.*

cut yourself off (=deliberately avoid seeing people in order to be alone) *After his wife died, he just stayed at home and cut himself off from his family and friends.*

8 **cut off** *sb* | **cut** *sb* **off**

to take away someone's right to receive your money or property when you die: *He knew that his father would cut him off without a penny if he married Elizabeth.*

9 **cut off** *sb* | **cut** *sb* **off** USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are cut off while you are speaking on the telephone, you are unable to finish your conversation because the telephone connection is suddenly broken: *My money ran out and I was cut off.*

get cut off *We got cut off before he could give me his address.*

10 **cut** *sb* **off**

to prevent someone from finishing what they were saying, by interrupting them: *"Mark!" his father cut him off. "I don't want you talking to your mother like that!"*

11 **cut** *sb* **off**

AmE to suddenly drive in front of a moving car in a dangerous way: *When a careless driver cuts you off, get his license plate number and report it to the police.*

cut out

1 **cut out** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **out**

to remove something by cutting round it with scissors or a knife: *Slice the avocado in half and cut out the stone.*

+ of *I cut the job advertisement out of the newspaper and kept it carefully.*

2 **cut out** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **out**

to cut a piece of paper, cloth etc so that it is in a particular shape: *The children were busy cutting out circles and squares.*

cut-out N [C]
a shape that has been cut out from card: *a life-size cardboard cut-out of Tony Blair*

3 **cut out** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **out**

to stop eating, drinking, smoking etc something, especially in order to improve your health or lose weight: *I wish I'd cut out cigarettes years ago.* | *You really ought to cut out alcohol, or at least drink less.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give up**

4 **cut it out!/cut that out!**

spoken informal used to tell someone to stop doing something because it is annoying you: *"Cut it out!" Brady yelled as the other guys took his clothes and began throwing them around the room.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop it!, knock it off** *spoken informal*

5 **not be cut out for** *sth* **to do** *sth*

if someone is not cut out for a job or an activity, they do not have the qualities that you need to do it: *After the first two months, Jim realized that he wasn't cut out to be a policeman.* | *I don't really enjoy being at home with the children – I just wasn't cut out for it!*

6 **cut out** *sth* | **cut** *sth* **out**

to remove part of a book, film, speech etc, for example because it might offend people: *The editors of the book asked me to cut out several paragraphs.*

+ of *A number of scenes had been cut out of the original movie.*

7 **cut** *sb* **out**

to stop someone from taking part in something, or from having a share of something

+ of *In a sudden temper, Joss cut me out of the deal.*

cut sb out of your will (=stop someone from receiving any of your money or property when you die) *We'd had our disagreements, but it was still a shock when my father cut me out of his will.*

8 **cut out** *sth/sb* | **cut** *sth/sb* **out**

to make part of a process unnecessary by making the process simpler and more direct: *A new station is due to open at the airport, cutting out the need for a long bus or taxi journey to catch a flight.*

cut out the middleman (=deal directly with people or companies yourself, so that you do not have to pay more money to someone else to do it) *All our goods come straight from the factory, so we can cut out the middleman and keep our prices down.*

9 **cut out** *sth* **cut** *sth* **out**

to prevent light or sound from coming into a place, or to prevent a view from being seen: *Very thick curtains will cut out the sound as well as the light.* | *The new houses will completely cut out our view.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out, shut out**

10 **cut out**

if an engine or machine cuts out, it suddenly stops working: *Then the engine cut out altogether, and we were stuck in the middle of the lake.*

cut-out ALSO **cut-out device** N [C]
BrE a part of a machine that stops the machine working if there is a problem: *The motor has an automatic cut-out device if it starts to overheat.*

11 **cut out**

AmE to leave suddenly: *Bob cut out right after the movie, but the rest of us had coffee and talked for a while.*

cut through

1 **cut through** *sth*

to go through a particular place instead of going round it, because it is the shortest way: *It was still light, so we decided to cut through the forest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut across**

2 **cut through** *sth*

to quickly find a way of dealing with something, for example a set of official rules, so that it does not prevent you from doing what you want: *Smith cut through a lot of bureaucracy to get the children out of Bosnia.*

3 **cut through** *sth*

to move quickly and smoothly through something, especially water: *Further out to sea, a motorboat cut through the water.*

4 **cut through** *sth*

if a road, path, or river cuts through an area, it passes through it: *The road cuts through some fantastic scenery, before dropping down to the sea.*

cut up

C

1 **cut up** *sth* **cut** *sth* **up**

to cut something into small pieces, especially food: *Could you cut up the onions for me?* | *Dan was in the garden, cutting wood up for the fire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop up**

2 **be cut up**

informal, especially BrE to be very upset about something that has happened

+ about *When Sam's father died last year, he was really cut up about it.*

3 **be (badly) cut up**

to be injured in a lot of places, by being in an accident or fight: *She was lucky to survive – her head was badly cut up.* | *Morrison last fought in October, when he was cut up and knocked out by Lennox Lewis.*

4 **cut up**

AmE informal if a class of students cuts up, the students behave badly: *By 3:00 on Friday, even the best class cuts up.*

D

DAB
dabbed, dabbed, dabbing

dab at

dab at *sth*

to touch something several times with quick light movements, especially with a cloth in order to remove something: *I came in to find Mark dabbing carefully at a dark stain on the carpet.* | *Dinah sniffed and dabbed at her eyes.*

DABBLE
dabbled, dabbled, dabbling

dabble in

dabble in *sth*

to do something or become involved in something in a not very serious way, for short periods of time: *Eckford became a wealthy man, bought a big house and dabbled in politics.* | *He dabbled in drugs a bit when he was at college, like most people of his generation.*

DALLY
dallied, dallied, dallying

dally with

1 **dally with** *sth*

to consider an idea or plan but not in a very serious way: *We've been dallying with the idea of moving our offices to Cambridge.* | *Both parties have been dallying with economic reform.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **play around/about with, toy with**

2 **dally with** *sb*

old-fashioned to have a short romantic or sexual relationship with someone, without having serious feelings for them that are likely to last: *Tristram didn't want everyone to know he'd been dallying with one of the servant girls.* | *She accused the major of dallying with her affections.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **play around/about**

DAM
dammed, dammed, damming

dam up

dam up *sth* **dam** *sth* **up**

to stop the water from flowing in a river, stream etc, especially by building a special wall across it: *The river has been dammed up to form a series of lakes.*

DAMP/DAMPEN
damped, damped, damping
dampened, dampened, dampening

damp/dampen down

1 **damp/dampen down** *sth*

damp/dampen *sth* **down**

especially BrE to reduce or control something and prevent it from increasing any more: *Jenna took a deep breath in an attempt to damp down her anger.* | *Tax increases were a way of damping down consumer spending.*

2 **damp/dampen down** *sth*

damp/dampen *sth* **down**

especially BrE to make a fire burn more slowly, especially by covering it with something or putting water on it

damp/dampen down a fire/blaze *Marty ran for help, while I got some water from the stream to try and damp down the fire.*

3 **damp/dampen down** *sth*

damp/dampen *sth* **down**

especially BrE to put a small amount of water on something, in order to make it wet or flat: *Rick was in the bathroom as usual, damping down his hair.*

DASH
dashed, dashed, dashing

dash off

1 **dash off**

informal to leave or go somewhere very quickly: *He dashed off before I had a chance to thank him.* | *I'm just dashing off to get my hair cut.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rush off, shoot off**

2 **dash off** *sth* **dash** *sth* **off**

to write or draw something very quickly, especially because you are in a hurry: *Lilly dashed off a note and left it on the table, explaining where she'd gone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **scribble down, jot down**

DATE
dated, dated, dating

date back

date back

to have existed since a particular time in the past – used especially to say that something has existed for a long time: *a tradition which dates back well over a thousand years*

+ to *Parts of the castle date back to the fifteenth century.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go back**

DAWN

dawned, dawned, dawning

dawn on/upon

● **Dawn upon** is more formal than **dawn on** and is mostly used in writing.

dawn on/upon *sb*

if something dawns on you, you realize it for the first time

it dawns on sb (that) *It suddenly dawned on Steve that he'd been making a complete fool of himself.* | *Then it dawned on me that I was totally wasting my time in this job.*

sth dawns on sb *The size of the task in front of us was slowly dawning on me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **strike**

DEAL

dealt, dealt, dealing

deal in

1 **deal in** *sth*

to buy and sell a particular type of thing as a business: *The company dealt in stocks and shares.* | *My father used to deal in stamps, medals and coins.* | *Penalties for dealing in illegal drugs are strict.*

2 **deal in** *sth*

to be interested in something or want to achieve something: *Kirov dealt in getting results and it didn't matter how he got them.* | *Laurence was not a man who dealt in rumours.*

3 **deal** *sb* **in**

to give someone cards so that they can play in a game of cards: *Shall I deal you in, Mick?*

4 **deal me in**

AmE spoken informal used to say that you want to be included in an activity or an agreement: *If you can find a way of making money from it, deal me in!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **count me in!** *spoken*

deal out

1 **deal out** *sth* **deal** *sth* **out**

to give something to a lot of different people: *She dealt out the sweets to all the children.* | *The money that was collected was dealt out to the poor.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give out, hand out, share out**

2 **deal out** *sth* **deal** *sth* **out**

to give playing cards to each of the players in a game: *The girl opposite Karl began dealing out the cards.*

3 **deal out** *sth* **deal** *sth* **out**

formal to give a punishment to someone: *The punishments dealt out to the rioters were extremely harsh.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mete out** *formal*, **administer** *formal*

deal with

1 **deal with** *sth*

to take action in order to solve a problem or make sure that something is done properly: *Staff are trained to deal with customer problems in a sympathetic way.* | *Who is dealing with the accommodation arrangements for the conference?* | *Troops were sent in, but they were poorly equipped for dealing with the riots.* | *We're still trying to deal with all the replies we had to our advertisement.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **handle, tackle**

2 **deal with** *sth*

formal if a book, speech, or film deals with a particular subject, it is about that subject, or that subject is discussed in it: *Carr's previous books have dealt with the events leading up to the war.* | *These ideas are dealt with more fully in Chapter Four.* | *His speech dealt mainly with the problems of health and education.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cover**

3 **deal with** *sb/sth*

to do business with someone or to discuss important matters with them: *We've dealt with that particular company for many years.* | *The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, refused to deal with the PLO.*

4 **deal with** *sb*

to meet or talk to someone as part of your work: *As a lawyer, I deal with hundreds of people every year.* | *If you want to work in sales and marketing, you need to be good at dealing with people.*

5 **deal with** *sth*

to succeed in facing a difficult situation in a way that does not have a very bad effect on you emotionally: *Simon's still struggling to deal with his divorce.* | *Giving evidence in court was really hard for her, but she's dealt with it so far.*

6 **deal with** *sb*

to punish someone because they have done something wrong: *Suspected terrorists are severely dealt with by the courts.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **punish**

D

DEBAR

debarred, debarred, debarring

debar from

debar *sb* **from** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to prevent someone from doing something by law or by an official rule: *All the terrorist groups were debarred from participation in the talks.*

be debarred from doing sth *Military personnel were debarred from voting.*

DECIDE

decided, decided, deciding

D

decide against

decide against *sth/sb*

to decide not to do a particular thing, or not to choose someone or something: *Quite a lot of engineering students eventually decide against a career in engineering.* | *In the end the committee decided against me, and chose a much younger man instead.*

decide against doing sth *More and more people are deciding against having children.*

decide on/upon

● **Decide upon** is more formal than **decide on** and is mostly used in writing.

decide on/upon *sth/sb*

to choose something or someone after thinking carefully: *In the end we decided on a small Italian restaurant.* | *Have you decided on a date for your wedding yet?*

+ what/where/which etc *First, you have to decide upon which subjects you like best.*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle on/upon**

DECK

decked, decked, decking

deck out

1 **deck out** *sb* **deck** *sb* **out** USUALLY PASSIVE

to put on special, often brightly coloured clothes for a particular occasion

+ in *Everyone was decked out in their best Sunday clothes for the annual outing to the sea.*

deck yourself out *Derek had decked himself out in a black leather jacket, green socks and red shoes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

2 **deck out** *sth* **deck** *sth* **out**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to decorate something with flags, flowers, bright colours etc for a special occasion

+ with *In the harbour, the ships were all decked out with flags and coloured lights.*

DECLARE

declared, declared, declaring

declare against

declare against *sth/sb*

formal to state publicly that you do not agree with someone or something, or do not support them: *Austria and Russia were ready to take action, but Serbia declared against it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out against**

declare for

declare for *sth/sb*

formal to state publicly that you agree with someone or something, or support them: *The situation was hopeless, and Sir Charles Munro declared for withdrawal of the troops.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out in favour of**

DEDICATE

dedicated, dedicated, dedicating

dedicate to

1 **dedicate** *sth* **to** *sb*

to say that a book, film, song etc has been written or made in order to express love or respect for a particular person: *I'd like to dedicate this song to my wife.* | *This book is dedicated to my children, Jamie, Laurie and Jo.*

2 **dedicate** *sth* **to** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

to give a building a particular person's name, or to write people's names on something that has been built, in order to show respect for them: *The church is dedicated to St Nicholas and dates from 1125.* | *On the village green there is a statue which is dedicated to those who died in the Great War.*

3 **dedicate yourself/your life to (doing)** *sth*

to give a lot of your time and effort to something or someone, because you care about them a lot: *Hoster had dedicated his life to the army.* | *When Rosie became ill, he dedicated himself to caring for her.*

4 **be dedicated to** *sth*

to be made or used for one particular purpose: *The research centre is dedicated to space biology.*

DEFER

deferred, deferred, deferring

defer to

defer to *sb/sth*

formal to accept someone else's opinion or

decision, because they know more than you or are more important than you: *My mother deferred to my father on all the important decisions.*

defer to sb's authority/judgment/knowledge etc *Tim thought it best to defer to Sarah's superior knowledge.*

DEGENERATE
degenerated, degenerated, degenerating

degenerate into

degenerate into | *sth*

if something degenerates into a confused, violent, or unpleasant situation, it becomes more and more confused, violent etc: *The march degenerated into violence as demonstrators smashed barriers and threw stones at police.* | *The discussion degenerated into a shouting match.*

DELIGHT
delighted, delighted, delighting

delight in

delight in | *sth*

formal to get a lot of pleasure from something, often from doing something that other people disapprove of

delight in doing sth *He was an unpleasant boy who delighted in teasing younger children.* | *The media seem to delight in revealing the most intimate details about the private lives of the rich and famous.*

DELIVER
delivered, delivered, delivering

deliver of

1 **deliver yourself of** | *sth*

formal to say something, especially in a very confident way: *Patrick loudly delivered himself of several unpleasant remarks about women in general.*

2 **be delivered of a baby**

BrE old-fashioned to give birth to a baby: *The following morning Sarah was delivered of a baby girl.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give birth**

deliver on

deliver on a promise/agreement etc

formal to do something that you promised or agreed officially to do: *Ministers have been attacked for failing to deliver on promises made three years ago.*

deliver up/over

deliver up/over | *sth/sb*

deliver | *sth/sb* | **up/over**

formal to give something or someone to a person in authority, especially because you have been ordered to: *All relevant documents must be delivered up to the court.* | *The terrorists have agreed to deliver over the hostages.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over, surrender**

DELVE
delved, delved, delving

delve into

delve into | *sth*

to try to find more detailed information that is not well known: *I spent some time delving into the history of the area in local libraries and churches.* | *Sometimes delving into the past can help us understand the present better.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

DEPART
departed, departed, departing

depart from

depart from | *sth*

formal to do something in a way that is different from the usual or expected way: *In the 1970s, a lot of schools departed from traditional educational practices.* | *In some of his later paintings, the artist departs from his usual method.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deviate from**

DEPEND
depended, depended, depending

depend on/upon

● **Depend upon** is more formal than **depend on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **depend on/upon** | *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to need something or someone's help in order to do something or in order to be successful: *I bought a car so I didn't have to depend on public transport all the time.* | *Until now the country has depended almost entirely on its oil revenue.*

+ for *Most of these birds depend upon insects for food.*

+ to do sth *I'm depending on you to get this finished by tomorrow.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on**

2 **depend on/upon** | *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to be influenced or changed according to

particular conditions: *Completing the building work in time will really depend on the weather. | The park closes between 5 and 7 pm, depending on the time of year.*

+ what/whether/how etc *The success of any economy depends on how it is managed by the government.*

it depends on sth *I'm not sure what time we'll arrive. It depends on the traffic.*

3 **can depend on** *sb/sth*

if you can depend on someone or something, you can trust them and feel confident that they will help you or do what you want: *You can depend on Jane – she's always ready to help.*

sth you can depend on *If you live in the country, you need to have a car you can depend on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on, trust**

D

DEPRIVE

deprived, deprived, depriving

deprive of

deprive *sb/sth* **of** *sth*

to prevent someone or something from having something that they need or want: *A lot of these children have been deprived of a normal home life. | A large section of the population was deprived of the right to vote. | We'll talk about it later – I don't want to deprive you of sleep.*

DERIVE

derived, derived, deriving

derive from

1 **derive** *sth* **from** *sth*

formal to get satisfaction, pleasure, or an advantage from something: *It's a demanding job, but he derives a lot of satisfaction from it. | Most of the companies had derived positive benefits from their investment.*

2 **derive from/be derived from**

to develop or come from something else: *A lot of words in English are derived from Latin. | William Morris's designs derived from his deep love of nature.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from**

DEROGATE

derogated, derogated, derogating

derogate from

1 **derogate from** *sth*

formal, especially BrE to do something different from what is agreed in law or by an agreement: *The United Kingdom has sought to derogate from the basic principles of the treaty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deviate from**

2 **derogate from** *sth*

formal, especially BrE to take away some of someone's rights, duties etc: *This new legislation does not in any way derogate from the rights of the landlord.*

DESCEND

descended, descended, descending

descend from

1 **be descended from** *sb*

to be related to someone who lived in the past, especially someone famous or important: *My mother always claimed she was descended from Abraham Lincoln.*

2 **be descended from** *sth*

to have developed from something that existed in the past: *These ideas are descended from those of the ancient philosophers.*

descend into

descend into *sth*

if something descends into a confused, violent, or unpleasant situation, it gradually becomes more and more confused, violent etc: *By this time the police investigation had descended into total chaos. | There is a danger that Chechnya will descend into further violence and poverty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **degenerate into**

descend on/upon

● **Descend upon** is more formal than **descend on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **descend on/upon** *sb/sth*

if a group of people descend on a person or place, they all arrive suddenly, often without being invited: *If friends suddenly descend on you at the weekend, you just have to hope you have something in the freezer. | Thousands of football fans descended on the town.*

2 **descend on/upon** *sb/sth*

if a type of weather, or silence, calm etc descends on a person or place, it seems to start very suddenly: *A heavy fog suddenly descended on us, and we realized that we were lost. | It was early evening, and calm had descended upon the river.*

3 **descend on/upon** *sb*

if a sad feeling descends on you, you suddenly start to feel it: *A black depression descended on her at the thought of the future.*

descend to

descend to | *sth*

if someone descends to very bad or unacceptable behaviour, they behave in that way: *I was completely amazed that he could descend to such rudeness.*

descend to doing sth *By this time Mr and Mrs Popple had descended to shouting at each other.*

descend to the level of sb/sth (=behave as badly as someone or something else) *Without civilized society, we would descend to the level of animals.*

descend upon

SEE **descend on**

DESPAIR

despaired, despaired, despairing

despair of

1 **despair of** | *sth*

formal to feel that there is no hope that something will ever happen or improve: *I really despair of public transport in this country!*

despair of doing sth *Months passed, and I began to despair of ever seeing her again.*

2 **despair of** | *sb*

to feel that there is no hope that someone will ever be successful, or do what they should do: *"You're not even trying at school!" my father said. "I despair of you!"*

despair of sb doing sth *I was twenty-two, and my family had despaired of me ever finding a job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up on**

DETRACT

detracted, detracted, detracting

detract from

detract from | *sth*

to make something seem less good, or to reduce its value: *The other team certainly played badly, but that should not detract from our victory.* | *Obviously a noisy road nearby detracts from the value of a house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **diminish, take away from**

DEVIATE

deviated, deviated, deviating

deviate from

deviate from | *sth*

to do something in a different way from the usual or expected way: *The Chancellor did not deviate from the original text of his speech.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depart from**

DEVOLVE

devolved, devolved, devolving

devolve to/upon/on

devolve | *sth* | **to/upon/on** | *sb*

devolve to/upon/on | *sb*

formal if power or a position of authority is devolved to a person, group, or organization, it is given to them: *The minister put forward plans to devolve power to regional parliaments in Scotland and Wales.* | *The following year, the presidency devolved upon Pascal Trouillot.*

DEVOTE

devoted, devoted, devoting

devote to

1 **devote** | *sth* | **to** | *sth*

to use a lot of your time and energy for a particular purpose, because you care about it a lot: *He retired early in order to devote more time to his interest in drama and music.* | *Mother Teresa devoted her life to helping the poor and needy.*

devote yourself to (doing) sth *For twenty years Sutchbury had devoted himself to the museum.*

2 **devote** | *sth* | **to** | *sth*

to give money, space, or attention to a particular activity or subject: *More funds and resources need to be devoted to the care of old people.* | *Every US newspaper devotes a lot of space to weather forecasts.*

3 **be devoted to** | *sb/sth*

to love someone or care about something a lot, and give a lot of your time to them: *Mr Summerfield was described as a shy man, who was devoted to his family.* | *Like many scientists, she is completely devoted to her work.*

4 **be devoted to** | *sth*

to be about a particular subject, or to be used for a particular purpose: *A large part of the book is devoted to the years leading up to the war.* | *In the Eastern part of England, most farms are devoted to arable crops.*

DIAL

dialled, dialled, dialling
dialed, dialed, dialing AmE

dial in/into

dial in | **dial into** *sth*

to connect one computer to others by using a modem. A modem is a piece of electronic equipment which lets one computer send information to another through telephone wires: *It can take quite a long time to dial into the Internet.* | *People working at home can dial in over a modem, and get access to their files.*

dial-in ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a dial-in service, system etc connects one computer to others by using a modem: *Comcast plans to set up a dial-in service.*

D

dial out

dial out

to use a telephone in order to phone someone who is not in the same office building as you: *If you want to dial out, press nine and then dial the number.*

DICK

dicked, dicked, dicking

● **Dick** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

dick around

1 **dick** *sb* **around**

AmE informal to deliberately make things difficult for someone: *Carlson always dicks me around – maybe I should find a better agent.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jerk around** *AmE informal*, **mess around** *BrE informal*

2 **dick around**

AmE informal to waste time by doing silly things: *Now get to work, and I don't want to see you dicking around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess about/around**

DICTATE

dictated, dictated, dictating

dictate to

dictate to *sb*

to tell someone exactly what they should do or how they should behave, often in a way that annoys them because you have no right to do this: *Just because you're older than me doesn't give you the right to dictate to me!*

+ what/who/how etc *The government should not dictate to employers how much they pay their workers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **order about/around**

DIDDLE

diddled, diddled, diddling

diddle around

diddle around

AmE informal to waste time and not try hard to succeed: *Samuel mostly diddled around in college, getting by with the lowest pass grades.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dink around** *AmE informal*, **mess around** *informal*

diddle with

1 **diddle with** *sth*

AmE informal to play with something by making small movements with your hands, usually without thinking about what you are doing: *Ruth was sitting in an easy chair, diddling with a small American flag.*

2 **diddle with** *sth*

AmE informal to make small changes to something which are intended to improve it but do not: *The President and Congress keep diddling with the national debt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fiddle around (with)**

DIE

died, died, dying

die away

die away

if something such as sound, light, or the wind dies away, it gradually becomes weaker and then stops: *The sky became dark and the sound of heavy bombs died away.* | *At last, in the early morning, the wind began to die away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fade away**

die back

die back

if a plant dies back, its leaves and flowers die, but its roots are still alive: *Cold weather causes the plants to die back, but they will usually return in the spring.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wither**

die down

die down

if something such as noise, excitement, or fighting dies down, it gradually decreases in amount, until it stops completely: *Forester looked around the room, waiting for the laughter to die down.* | *The fuss caused by Howe's resignation eventually died down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **subside** *formal*

be dying for

be dying for *sth*

BrE informal to want or need something very much, especially something to drink or eat: *I'm dying for a cup of tea – how about you?* | *By this time we'd been travelling all day, and we were dying for a good meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

die off

die off

if a group of people or animals die off, they die over a period of time until none of them are left: *Most of the old people had died off, and the young ones had moved to the towns.* | *In the Yangtze River, dolphins are dying off at an alarming rate.*

die out

1 **die out**

if all of a type of animal or plant dies out, they gradually decrease in numbers and then stop existing completely: *Many wild plants and animals are in danger of dying out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **become extinct**

2 **die out**

if a custom, tradition, or skill dies out, it gradually disappears and people stop doing it or using it: *During this century a lot of the old country crafts have died out.*

DIG

dug, dug, digging

dig in

1 **dig in** *sth* **dig** *sth* **in**

to mix a substance into soil by digging, in order to improve the quality of the soil: *I need to dig some manure in before I plant the roses.*

2 **dig your heels in/dig in your heels**

to refuse to do something in spite of other people's efforts to persuade you: *Sara just dug in her heels and refused to co-operate.* | *When we tried to argue about the price, he dug his heels in.*

3 **dig in**

if soldiers dig in, they dig trenches that they can go into for protection. Trenches are long holes dug into the ground: *Allied troops arrived at Ypres and began to dig in.*

be dug in (=be in trenches) *The German army was dug in along a ten-mile front.*

4 **dig in** *sth*

if you dig in your pocket or bag, you put your hand in it to try to find something: *John dug in his shirt pocket and produced a small photograph.*

5 **dig in** *sth* **dig** *sth* **in**

to push something sharp into a surface or into part of someone's body: *She reached for his hand, clutched it and dug in her long nails.*

6 **dig in!**

BrE spoken informal used to tell people to start eating the food that is in front of them: *Dig in! There's plenty for everyone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tuck in** *BrE informal*

7 **dig in**

AmE informal to begin to do something in a determined or excited way: *When his mother became sick, Tyler really dug in and helped the rest of the family.*

D

dig into

1 **dig into** *sth*

to put your hand into something such as a pocket or bag in order to try to find something: *Mrs Bennet dug into her purse and handed the girl a few coins.*

2 **dig** *sth* **into** *sth*

to mix a substance into soil by digging, in order to improve the quality of the soil: *Before planting leaf vegetables dig sulphate of ammonia into the soil, to produce healthy growth.*

3 **dig into** *sth*

to use part of a supply of something, especially money, that you had intended to keep: *We've had to dig into our savings to pay off the debt.* | *The bank is digging into capital reserves to retain the confidence of its customers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dip into**

4 **dig into** *sth*

to try to find out more information about something, especially someone's private life: *As detectives dug deeper into the secret life of Thomas Courtney, they discovered some surprising facts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delve into**

5 **dig into** *sth* **dig** *sth* **into** *sth*

to press something or be pressed against part of someone's body in a way that causes pain: *The straps of my rucksack were digging into my shoulder.* | *Casey grabbed hold of me, digging his thumbs into my throat so that I could not breathe.*

6 **dig into** *sth*

to start eating food: *He sat down at the table and dug into a plate of steaming pasta.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tuck into** *BrE informal*

dig out

1 **dig out** *sth* | **dig** *sth* **out**

to search for and find something that you have not seen for a long time: *I read an article about that in a magazine – I'll see if I can dig it out for you.* | *Dig out your old dancing shoes and join in the fun.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dig up**

2 **dig out** *sth* | **dig** *sth* **out**

to look for and find information, especially information that is difficult to find: *The TV station employs a group of researchers, who are always ready to dig out whatever information is required.* | *I took the opportunity to dig out a few facts and figures about this remote island.*

D

dig out of

dig *sth* **out of trouble/a mess/a crisis etc**

to succeed in helping an organization, country etc which is failing or in a bad situation, so that it becomes successful again: *They decided that Gerstner was the right man to dig the company out of trouble.* | *People grew impatient with Mr Zhivkov's inability to dig Bulgaria out of its economic and political crisis.*

dig over

dig over *sth* | **dig** *sth* **over**

to dig a piece of ground and break up the soil, before planting things in it: *Dig over the flowerbeds and remove any weeds.*

dig up

1 **dig up** *sth* | **dig** *sth* **up**

to dig holes in the ground, or to remove a floor: *Can you believe it – they're digging up the road again!* | *Police have dug up the floor of the house in their search for the body of a man who went missing six months ago.*

2 **dig up** *sth* | **dig** *sth* **up**

to dig and remove something from the ground that is buried or that is growing in it: *Ancient Roman treasure, including thousands of coins, has been dug up in a field in Suffolk.* | *We had to dig up the rose bushes and transplant them to the other side of the garden.*

3 **dig up** *sth* | **dig** *sth* **up**

to discover hidden or forgotten information by careful searching, especially about something bad or illegal that someone has done in the past: *When you become famous, the press will dig up everything they can about your past.*

dig up dirt on sb (=try to discover something bad or illegal that someone has done in the past) *They searched through confidential files to dig up dirt on Mr Clinton, and discovered that he had smoked cannabis as a student.*

4 **dig up** *sth* | **dig** *sth* **up**

to search for and find something that you have not seen for a long time: *I know I've got the book somewhere at home – I'll see if I can dig it up for you*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dig out**

DILATE

dilated, dilated, dilating

dilate on

dilate on *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to speak or write a lot about a particular subject or idea: *In the last chapter Penzias dilates on the role that religion can play in politics.*

DIN

dinned, dinned, dinning

din into

din *sth* **into** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE old-fashioned to make someone remember or believe something by repeating it to them many times: *Respect for our elders was dinned into us at school.* | *ideas and attitudes that had been dinned into his head from birth*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drum into**

DINE

dined, dined, dining

dine in

dine in

formal to eat dinner at home, not in a restaurant: *Please tell Anton that we shall be dining in this evening.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eat in**

dine off/on

dine off/on *sth*

formal to eat a particular kind of food for dinner, especially expensive food: *We dined on lobster and strawberries at the Ritz Hotel.*

dine out

dine out

to eat dinner in a restaurant – used especially in written English: *Dining out on the island is a real pleasure, for there is a wide range of restaurants at very affordable prices.* | *Dine out in style in this grand Victorian mansion, serving French and world cuisine.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eat out**

dine out on

dine out on *sth*

BrE humorous to often tell a story about something special that happened to you, in order to entertain people during meals: *Bessie once met the Dalai Lama and she has dined out on it ever since.*

DINK

dinked, dinked, dinking

dink around

dink around

AmE informal to waste time, especially by doing small, unimportant jobs slowly: *Quit dinking around and get to work!* | *What am I doing here, dinking around with my friends, instead of working on my campaign?*

* SIMILAR TO: **futz around** *AmE informal*, **diddle around** *AmE informal*

DIP

dipped, dipped, dipping

dip into

1 **dip into** *sth*

to use part of an amount of money that you had intended to keep: *She's had to dip into her savings to pay the medical bills.* | *Profits were seriously low, and the company was forced to dip into reserves.*

dip into your pocket (=pay for something with your own money, when normally someone else would pay) *Parents are being asked to dip into their pockets for new school books.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

2 **dip into** *sth*

to read short parts of a book, magazine etc, without reading the whole thing: *It's the kind of book you can dip into now and again.*

3 **dip into** *sth*

to put your hand into a bag or container to take something out: *Janet dipped into her handbag and pulled out a letter.* | *On her lap was a large tub of popcorn that she kept dipping into.*

DISABUSE

disabused, disabused, disabusing

disabuse of

disabuse *sb* **of** *sth*

formal to persuade someone that something they believe is untrue: *I was under the impression that my essay was rather good, but the professor soon disabused me of that notion.*

DISAGREE

disagreed, disagreed, disagreeing

disagree with

disagree with *sb*

if something, especially a type of food, disagrees with you, it makes you feel ill: *I never eat seafood – it disagrees with me.*

DISAPPROVE

disapproved, disapproved, disapproving

disapprove of

disapprove of *sth/sb*

to think that something or someone is bad, wrong, or unsuitable: *Sophie's parents didn't really approve of her new boyfriend.* | *Many people still disapprove of the idea of sex before marriage.*

● OPPOSITE: **approve of**

DISASSOCIATE

disassociated, disassociated, disassociating

SEE **dissociate**

DISCOURSE

discoursed, discoursed, discoursing

discourse on

discourse on *sth*

formal to make a long speech about something: *Poindexter discoursed on language and culture, and the relationship between them.*

DISH

dished, dished, dishing

dish out

1 **dish out** *sth* **dish** *sth* **out**

informal to give things to a group of people: *They want me to dress up as Santa Claus and dish out presents at the kids' Christmas party.* | *We're going to have a display, and we'll probably dish out some leaflets there as well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand out**

2 **dish out** *sth* **dish** *sth* **out**

to serve food to people by putting it onto their plates: *Jo, would you dish out the ice-cream.* | *Dolores had cut up a huge melon and dished chunks out on their plates.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dish up, serve up**

D

3 **dish out** *sth* **dish** *sth* **out**

informal to give people advice or criticism without thinking about it carefully enough: *These lawyers make a fortune dishing out expensive advice to clients.*

sb can dish it out but they can't take it (=used to say that someone likes to criticize other people, but does not like to be criticized) *Lloyd's a bully – he can certainly dish it out, but when they start getting at him, he can't take it.*

4 **dish out** *sth* **dish** *sth* **out**

AmE to pass the ball to another player so that they can score points easily in a game such as basketball or hockey: *Mark Jackson dished out 12 assists for Indiana.*

D

dish up

1 **dish up** *sth* **dish** *sth* **up** **dish up**

BrE to put food onto plates so that it is ready to eat: *Can you dish up the vegetables? They're on the sideboard.* | *I'll open the wine – you dish up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dish out, serve up**

2 **dish up** *sth* **dish** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to produce something without much care or effort: *Throughout the summer, TV channels have been dishing up a diet of old movies.*

DISPENSE

dispensed, dispensed, dispensing

dispense with

dispense with *sb/sth*

formal to stop using something or someone that you would normally use, or get rid of someone or something because you no longer need them: *Some companies have dispensed with middle managers altogether.* | *Morenz had dispensed with his suit in favour of a more casual look.*

dispense with formalities (=not behave in the polite formal way that is considered normal because you are in a hurry) *Mills dispensed with the usual formalities and got straight to the point.*

DISPOSE

disposed, disposed, disposing

dispose of

1 **dispose of** *sth*

to get rid of something, especially something that is difficult to get rid of: *Dahmer had disposed of his victim's body by burying it in the woods.* | *Hazardous chemicals must be disposed of carefully, according to strict safety procedures.*

2 **dispose of** *sth*

formal to sell something that is worth a lot of money, such as shares in a company or parts of a company: *The government wanted to dispose of its shares in the loss-making state rail network.* | *Granada's decision to dispose of 40 of its top hotels was applauded by city analysts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sell off**

3 **dispose of** *sth*

to deal with a problem, question, or job successfully: *The Kennedy administration wanted urgently to dispose of the whole issue to avoid any further embarrassment.* | *The case has now been finally disposed of by the European Court.*

4 **dispose of** *sb*

to defeat an opponent: *Having disposed of Newcastle, Manchester United went on to beat Liverpool in the FA Cup final.*

* SIMILAR TO: **defeat**

5 **dispose of** *sb*

to kill someone or arrange for them to be killed: *Stalin used the secret police to dispose of his rivals.* | *This is a country where politicians, judges, and business rivals are disposed of nearly every day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kill**

DISSOCIATE *also* DISASSOCIATE

dissociated, dissociated, dissociating

dissociate from

1 **dissociate yourself from** *sb/sth*

to show that you do not agree with a person or organization, so that you avoid being criticized for their opinions or actions: *The organisers of the protest were quick to dissociate themselves from the violence that had erupted on the streets.* | *The President was becoming increasingly unpopular, and several government ministers began to quietly disassociate themselves from him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **distance yourself from**

2 **dissociate** *sth/sb* **from** *sth/sb*

formal to consider two things or people to be separate and not connected to each other: *Traditional teaching has tended to dissociate science from technology.*

DISSOLVE

dissolved, dissolved, dissolving

dissolve into

1 **dissolve into tears/laughter/giggles**

to lose control of yourself and start to cry or laugh: *She suddenly dissolved into floods of*

tears. "I hate you!" she said. "I hate you!" | Vicky started tickling the boy, and he dissolved into giggles.

2 **dissolve into** *sth*

to develop into a bad state: *Tragically, it now seems a deadly certainty that the region will dissolve into war.* | *Order dissolved into chaos, as an angry mob ran though the streets, looting shops and setting cars on fire.*

DISTANCE

distanced, distanced, distancing

distance yourself from

distance yourself from *sb/sth*

to say that you are not involved with someone or something, or to try to become less involved with someone or something: *The Labour Party had been careful to distance itself from Marxism.* | *All Gore's attempts to distance himself from the controversy have failed, as the press keep questioning him about his involvement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dissociate yourself from**

DIVE

dived also *dove AmE, dived, diving*

dive in

1 **dive in**

to start doing something very eagerly, especially without stopping to think before you do it: *Think carefully about what sort of dog is the right one for you, before diving in and buying one.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap in**

2 **dive in**

to start eating some food very eagerly: *Mrs Birkin brought breakfast out on a tray, and Lisa dived in hungrily.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig in!** *BrE spoken informal*, **tuck in** *BrE informal*

dive into

1 **dive into** *sth*

if you dive into a bag, cupboard etc, you put your hand into it very quickly to get something out: *"What about shoes?" Louise dived into her carrier bag and pulled out a pair of white sandals.*

2 **dive into** *sth*

if you dive into an activity, you start doing it very eagerly: *Williams dived into the election campaign with great enthusiasm, convinced that we could win.*

3 **dive into** *sth*

if you dive into a place, you go into it very quickly: *I saw my ex-boyfriend walking down the street, so I just dived into the nearest shop.*

4 **dive into** *sth*

if you dive into food, you start to eat it very eagerly: *Moving over to the buffet, Walter immediately dived into a plate of smoked salmon sandwiches.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into** *informal*, **tuck into** *informal*

DIVEST

divested, divested, divesting

divest of

1 **divest yourself of** *sth*

formal to get rid of something that you own: *The Corporation has already divested itself of unwanted properties worth over £3 million.* | *The American Supreme Court ordered the Hollywood studios to divest themselves of the monopoly control of the cinemas.*

2 **divest yourself of** *sth*

formal to take off something that you are wearing: *Father Devlin divested himself of his overcoat and sat down.*

be divested of sth *Divested of his robes, the judge appeared to be a very ordinary man.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

3 **divest yourself of** *sth*

formal to get rid of an idea or attitude that you had because you realize that it is wrong: *Even the most scholarly historians find it difficult to divest themselves of prejudice.*

4 **divest** *sb* **of** *sth*

formal to take away someone's power, wealth, or rights – used especially about kings, queens etc: *On 8 March 1198, the Cologne assembly divested King Philip of his title.*

DIVIDE

divided, divided, dividing

divide by

divide *sth* **by** *sth*

if you divide a larger number by a smaller number, you calculate how many times the smaller one fits into the larger one: *Divide 21 by 3.*

divided by sth *6 divided by 3 is 2.*

divide into

divide *sth* **into** *sth*

if you divide a smaller number into a larger number, you calculate how many times it fits into it: *Divide 6 into 48.* | *7 divided into 42 is 6.*

D

divide off

divide off *sth* | **divide** *sth* **off**

to separate part of a room or area from the rest of it, using a wall, fence etc: *A wooden fence divides off the western side of the garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate off**

divide up

1 **divide up** *sth* | **divide** *sth* **up** | **divide up**

to separate something into smaller parts or groups or become separated into two or more different parts: *Make sure you divide up the time you spend on each question equally in the test.*

+ **into** *The USA is divided up into 50 states.* | *The frog's egg divides up into two separate cells.*

2 **divide up** *sth* | **divide** *sth* **up**

to separate something into two or more parts and share them between two or more people

+ **between/among** *The money is to be divided up equally between her two sons.* | *The stolen diamonds were divided up among the gang.*

* SIMILAR TO: **share out, divvy up** *informal*

D

DIVORCE

divorced, divorced, divorcing

divorce from

1 **be divorced from** *sth*

to be completely separate or different from something: *Latin was written in a classical style that was divorced from the spoken forms of the language.* | *Spending all our time in air conditioned buildings, we have become divorced from the natural world.*

divorced from reality (=not based on any sensible idea of what is possible or practical) *His political theories were so divorced from reality, that no one else would take them seriously.*

2 **divorce** *sth* **from** *sth*

to separate two ideas, subjects, or things completely: *Gandhi asserted that it was impossible to divorce morality from religion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate**

DIVVY

divvied, divvied, divvying

divvy up

divvy up *sth* | **divvy** *sth* **up**

informal to divide something and share it among two or more people or groups: *The committee divvied up donations equally between Democrats and Republicans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **divide up, split up**

DO

did, done, doing

do about

do *sth* **about** *sth*

to do something in order to solve a particular problem or improve a bad situation: *I really don't know what to do about my weight, it just keeps going up and up.* | *"Our car keeps getting broken into." "What are you going to do about it?"*

do something/nothing etc about sth *It's time they did something about the traffic in London.* | *You must stop worrying about what happened – there's nothing you can do about it now.*

do as

do as *sth*

BrE if something will do as another thing, it can be used instead of that thing: *He laid out the map on an upturned cardboard box that did as a table.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do for, serve as/for**

do away with

1 **do away with** *sth*

to get rid of something or stop doing or using something: *The government has done away with free eye tests for everyone.* | *There is a new computer that does away with the keyboard – you control it using your voice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of**

2 **do away with** *sb*

informal to murder someone: *No one had seen Mr Potter for a while, and my father joked that perhaps his wife had done away with him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do in** *informal*, **bump off** *informal*, **murder**

do down

do *sb* **down**

BrE informal to criticize someone unfairly and make them seem stupid or unsuccessful: *It's really bitchy in the office – they're always doing people down when they're not there.*

do yourself down (=criticize yourself because you lack confidence) *Don't do yourself down! You look lovely.*

do for

1 **be done for**

informal if someone is done for, they are in

such a bad state or situation, that they will certainly die, fail, be in serious trouble etc: *If we get caught, we're done for.* | *McCabe had a terrible head wound, and I could see that he was done for.*

2 **be done for**

if something is done for, it is so badly damaged that it cannot be used any longer: *There was a huge explosion, and when the smoke cleared we could see the ship was done for.*

3 **do for** *sth*

if something will do for another thing, you can use it instead of that other thing: *On the wall was a polished piece of metal that did for a mirror.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do as, serve as/for**

do in

1 **do** *sb* **in**

spoken to make someone extremely tired: *All that running around has completely done me in.*

be done in *I'm going to bed – I'm done in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tire out, wear out**

2 **do** *sb* **in**

informal to murder someone or attack them so that they are badly hurt: *I don't reckon she died of a heart attack – I reckon her husband did her in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do away with, bump off** *informal*, **murder**

do out

do out *sth* **do** *sth* **out**

spoken, especially BrE to make a room look nice by decorating it: *The kitchen's been done out nicely, with tiles and new units and everything.*

do sth out in blue/pink/pinewood etc *The bedrooms are all done out in pink and cream.*

do out of

do *sb* **out of** *sth*

to cheat someone by not giving them money that they are owed, or something that should belong to them: *The way I see it, they've done me out of three weeks' wages.* | *The insurance company wouldn't pay up, and Mrs Wilson feels she's been done out of money that rightfully belongs to her.*

do over

1 **be done over**

BrE spoken informal if someone's house is done over, thieves get into it and steal things from it: *Did you know Mark's flat's been done over again?*

* SIMILAR TO: **burgle**

2 **do** *sb* **over**

BrE spoken informal to attack and injure someone: *If you don't pay up, he'll send his mates round to do you over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat up**

3 **do over** *sth* **do** *sth* **over**

informal, especially AmE to decorate a room or house to make it more attractive: *We really should do the bathroom over – it's looking really shabby.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do up**

do up

1 **do up** *sth* **do** *sth* **up**

to fasten clothes, shoes etc: *"I'm cold." "Well why don't you do up your coat?"* | *Can Daisy do her shoelaces up yet?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fasten**

● OPPOSITE: **undo**

2 **do up**

BrE if clothes do up, they fasten: *This skirt does up at the back.* | *The zip's broken – it won't do up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fasten**

3 **do up** *sth* **do** *sth* **up**

informal to repair or decorate an old car or building, so that it looks much better: *They bought an old house and they're doing it up.*

4 **do yourself up**

informal to put on nice clothes and make yourself look attractive: *Sue spent hours doing herself up for her date.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doll up** *informal*

do with

1 **be/have something to do with** *sth*

spoken to be connected with something in some way: *I don't know much about his job, but I think it's something to do with the stock market.*

not have anything to do with sth/have nothing to do with sth (=not be connected with something) *His decision to retire didn't have anything to do with the recent problems in the business.*

what's that got to do with it? (=used when you think someone has mentioned something that is not connected with the subject) *I know she's been married before, but what's that got to do with it?*

2 **it's got nothing to do with you/what's it got to do with you?**

spoken used to tell someone that they should not ask questions about something because it is a private matter: *Why should I tell you what*

D

I was doing in Paris? It's got nothing to do with you. | Yes, I have a boyfriend – but what's it got to do with you?

3 **could do with** *sb/sth*

spoken to need or want someone or something: *I could do with a drink. | I could have done with some help this morning. | We could do with someone to run the office while Maggie's on holiday.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **need**

4 **what do you do with yourself**

spoken used to ask someone what they spend their time doing: *What are you going to do with yourself this weekend?*

not know what to do with yourself (=not know how to spend your time) *June didn't know what to do with herself after she retired.*

5 **what has** *sb* **done with** *sth?*

spoken used to ask where someone has put something: *What have you done with my pen? | I had my keys in my hand a minute ago, and now I don't know what I've done with them.*

6 **what is** *sb* **doing with** *sth?*

spoken used to ask why someone has something when it does not belong to them: *What are you doing with my diary?*

7 **what shall we do with** *sth/sb?*

spoken used to ask what arrangements should be made for something or someone: *What shall we do with the kids while you're working?*

8 **I can't do with** *sth*

BrE spoken used to say that something is annoying you very much: *I can't do with all this noise – you'll have to play outside.*

do without

1 **do without** | **do without** *sb/sth*

to succeed in dealing with a situation without someone or something that you want or need: *I can't afford a car, so I guess I'll just have to do without. | So England must do without two of their best players in the vital World Cup qualifying match on Saturday.*

2 **I can/could do without** *sth*

spoken used to say that something is annoying you or causing problems for you, especially when the situation is already bad: *I could do without all this hassle at the moment. | Oh shut up – I can do without you nagging me on top of everything else.*

DOB

dobbed, dobbed, dobbing

dob in

dob *sb* **in**

BrE old-fashioned informal if you dob someone in, you tell the police or someone in authority that they have done something wrong: *If I ever find out who dobbed me in, I'll kill them, I really will.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **split on** *BrE informal*, **grass on** *BrE informal*

DOLE

doled, doled, doling

dole out

dole out *sth* | **dole** *sth* **out**

informal to give something, especially large amounts of money, to several people: *The federal government doles out $58 billion in student grants every year. | Dad began to dole out the porridge from the saucepan.*

DOLL

dolled, dolled, dolling

doll up

doll yourself up

informal to get ready for a special occasion by putting on nice clothes and making yourself look attractive: *The girls were in the bathroom, dolling themselves up.*

be/get dolled up *Emily was all dolled up for the party.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

DOOM

doomed, doomed, dooming

doom to

be doomed to failure/defeat/ disaster etc

to be certain to fail, be defeated, be destroyed etc: *Divorce statistics show that most marriages are doomed to failure from the start. | Russia's venture into capitalism seemed doomed to disaster.*

DOPE

doped, doped, doping

be doped up

be doped up

informal to be under the influence of drugs, so that you cannot think clearly or behave in a normal way: *He was so doped up he didn't even know what day it was.*

+ on/with *Early in his acting career, Harlowe was doped up on prescription drugs most of the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drugged up**

DOSE

dosed, dosed, dosing

dose up

dose *sb* **up**

informal to give someone a lot of medicine to make them sleep or feel better

+ with *The nurse dosed him up with aspirin and sent him to bed.*

DOSS

dossed, dossed, dossing

doss about/around

doss about/around

BrE informal to spend your time doing nothing: *We just dossed around all day on Saturday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **laze around/about**

doss down

doss down

BrE informal to sleep somewhere such as on the floor because there is no bed available or because you do not have a place to live: *Harry has been dossing down on a friend's floor for the past two weeks.* | *Students are having to doss down in seminar rooms because there's not enough accommodation available.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kip down** *BrE informal*

DOT

dotted, dotted, dotting

be dotted around ALSO be dotted about *BrE*

be dotted around/about

if things are dotted around an area, they are found in different parts of it: *There were toys dotted around the room and children's clothing everywhere.* | *Aside from a few houses dotted about the hillside, the area was deserted.*

dot with

1 **be dotted with** *sth*

if an area is dotted with something, it has a lot of them in different parts of that area: *Pike Street is dotted with cozy cafes and unique shops.* | *The hills around La Jolla are now dotted with high-tech companies.*

2 **dot** *sth* **with** *sth*

if you dot a surface with something, especially food, you put a small amount of it in several places: *Dot the vegetables with butter and add salt.* | *Arrange the noodles in a dish and dot them with ⅓ cup of ricotta cheese.*

DOTE

doted, doted, doted

dote on/upon

● **Dote upon** is more formal than **dote on** and is usually used in writing.

dote on/upon *sb/sth*

to love someone or something very much: *Leonard Stein was a hard-working man who doted on his wife and children.* | *Visitors have doted on the baby elephant born at the zoo last year.*

D

DOUBLE

doubled, doubled, doubling

double as

double as *sth*

to have a second use, job, or purpose: *The living room doubles as a guest bedroom.* | *Many years ago, the old church also doubled as the town hall.* | *Jackson sings in the local jazz bar, where he also doubles as a dishwasher.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double up as** *BrE*

double back

double back

to turn around and go back in the direction you have just come from: *The driver doubled back and headed for Howard Bay.* | *Engine problems forced the plane to double back to the Los Angeles International Airport shortly after takeoff.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn back**

double for

double for *sb*

to temporarily take the place of an actor when a dangerous scene in a film is being made: *During his career, he has doubled for stars like John Wayne, Gary Cooper, and Jimmy Stewart.* | *He had to run along the top of a moving train whilst doubling for Roger Moore in Octopussy.*

double over

double over

to suddenly bend your body forward because you are in so much pain or laughing so much: *Nathan doubled over in pain and was rushed to the hospital.*

+ with *I doubled over with laughter, unable to stop myself.*

be doubled over *Owen was still doubled over on the ground, holding one of his knees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double up**

double up

1 **double up**

to suddenly bend your body forward because you are in so much pain or laughing so much: *Emilio doubled up, holding his stomach and crying in pain.*

+ with *The kids were doubled up with cramps from the greasy food.*

be doubled up *By the end of the run I was doubled up and gasping for air.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double over**

2 **double up**

to share something with another person, especially because it is not possible for each person to have one: *I don't have enough books for all the class, so some of you may have to double up.*

+ with *Sean will double up with Janey whenever we need to use his bedroom for guests.*

3 **double up**

to use twice the usual amount of something, or to do something twice as much as you usually do: *I didn't take my medicine yesterday, so I'll have to double up today.*

+ on *To increase calories, double up on carbohydrates, but be careful about what you eat.*

double up as

double up as *sth*

BrE to have a second use, job, or purpose: *Can this sofa double up as a bed? | Mom always had to double up as the family nurse.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double as**

DOVETAIL

dovetailed, dovetailed, dovetailing

dovetail with

dovetail with *sth* **dovetail** *sth* **with** *sth*

formal if plans or events dovetail with each other, or you dovetail them with each other they fit together easily: *Charles's friendship with Camilla dovetailed perfectly with his lifestyle. | As working from home becomes increasingly common, people are finding it easier to dovetail parenthood with a fulltime career.*

DOZE

dozed, dozed, dozing

doze off

doze off

to fall asleep, usually for a short time, when you did not intend to: *I'm sorry, I must have dozed off for a minute. | The meeting was incredibly boring, and Kimberley looked like she was about to doze off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nod off, drop off** *informal*

DRAFT

drafted, drafted, drafting

draft in

be drafted in

to be asked or ordered to work in a place where you do not normally work, in order to help a group of people who are trying to deal with something: *Police were drafted in to control traffic during the carnival. | Extra staff were drafted in to deal with the Christmas rush.*

DRAG

dragged, dragged, dragged

drag away

drag *sb* **away**

informal to make someone stop doing something, when they are so interested in doing it that they do not want to stop: *Donny loves watching the animals at the zoo – we have to drag him away when it's time to leave.*

nothing can drag sb away from sth *On Sunday afternoons, nothing can drag Jim away from sports programmes on TV.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tear away**

drag down

1 **drag** *sb* **down** **drag down** *sb*

if something unpleasant or difficult drags someone down, it makes them feel unhappy, weak, and tired: *All the stress at work is really dragging her down. | Joe's been ill for weeks now, and it's really dragging him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get down**

2 **drag** *sth* **down** **drag down** *sth*

to make the price, level, or quality of something go down: *Declining prices for aluminum have dragged down Alcoa's fourth-quarter earnings. | The threat of job cuts is dragging down employee performance and morale.*

3 **drag down** *sb/sth* **drag** *sth/sb* **down**

to make someone or something unable to

succeed or do what they want to do: *A recession in Germany could drag down the rest of Europe. | Rita says she doesn't want to be dragged down by a husband.*

4 **drag** *sb* **down** | **drag down** *sb*

to make another person start behaving badly, like the other members of a group of people that you disapprove of: *I'm afraid some of the kids at school drag our daughter down with them.*

drag in/into

1 **drag** *sb/sth* **into** *sth* | **drag** *sb/sth* **in** | **drag in** *sb/sth*

to make someone or something get involved in an argument, war, or other situation that they do not want to be involved in: *Western leaders fear that other countries will be dragged into the war. | My parents are getting divorced, and I keep getting dragged into their arguments.*

2 **drag** *sb/sth* **in** | **drag** *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

to talk about someone or something when you are having a discussion or argument, even though it is not connected to the discussion or argument: *Don't drag my past into this – it has nothing to do with what we're talking about now. | I don't know why his name is always dragged in whenever we talk about money.*

drag off

drag *sb* **off**

to take someone away somewhere, using force

+ to *The protestors were dragged off to the nearest police station.*

* SIMILAR TO: **haul off**

drag on

drag on

if an event or situation drags on, it continues for too long: *An expensive court battle could drag on for years. | Both sides refused to compromise, and the negotiations dragged on. | As the cruel New England winter drags on, residents grow increasingly depressed.*

drag out

1 **drag out** *sth* | **drag** *sth* **out** | **drag out**

to last longer than is usual or necessary, or to make something do this – used about events and situations: *They both wanted a quick divorce – neither of them wanted to drag it out longer than they had to. | If the economic crisis drags out, more companies will be forced to close.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prolong** *formal*

2 **drag** *sth* **out**

if you drag information out of someone, you make them tell it to you, even though they do not want to

+ of *Police finally dragged a confession out of him. | Dave didn't want to tell me what happened on Friday – I had to drag it out of him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pry out, tease out**

drag up

1 **drag** *sb/sth* **up**

to mention an unpleasant event or story about something that happened in the past, even though it is embarrassing or upsetting for someone: *The newspapers had dragged up some story about an affair he had had with one of his students. | We all know she had a breakdown. There's no need to drag it up again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dredge up, dig up**

2 **be dragged up**

BrE if a child is dragged up, their parents do not teach them to behave properly: *Teachers used to complain that Skinner's children were dragged up, not brought up.*

● COMPARE: **bring up**

DRAGOON

dragooned, dragooned, dragooning

dragoon into *BrE*

dragoon *sb* **into** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

old-fashioned to force someone to do something that they do not want to do – often used humorously: *As soon as she was old enough, she was dragooned into helping her mother with the housework.*

DRAIN

drained, drained, draining

drain off

drain off *sth* | **drain** *sth* **off**

to remove the liquid from something by letting it flow away: *After cooking the meat, drain off the excess fat from the pan. | The nurse drained off the fluid from the wound.*

DRAW

drew, drawn, drawing

draw back

1 **draw back**

to move backwards from something, especially because you are afraid or surprised:

Dexter drew back in horror when he saw the dead body. | "I don't want to go," she cried, drawing back. | The crowd had drawn back to let the police go past.

2 **draw back**

to decide not to do something that you had planned or arranged to do: *Lithuanian leaders had announced they would draw back from the rush to independence. | Mandela has been reluctant to draw back from a busy schedule of political talks since his release from prison.*

draw in

1 **the days/nights draw in**

BrE if the days or nights are drawing in, it gets dark earlier in the evening: *In October the nights start drawing in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **close in** *BrE*

2 **draw in a breath**

if you draw in a breath, you breathe in very deeply: *He drew in a sharp breath as he saw the gun, and tried to remain calm. | Rosie drew in a deep breath, letting her lungs fill with the cool pine-scented air of the forest.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **inhale**

draw in/into

1 **draw** *sb* **in** **draw** *sb* **into** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone become involved in something, especially an argument, a quarrel, or a war, when they do not want to become involved in it: *As his roommates continued to argue, Yuri found himself being drawn in. | The United States didn't want to get drawn into a ground war in Kosovo.*

2 **draw** *sb* **in** **draw** *sb* **into** *sth*

to make someone notice or become interested in something: *Your eye is drawn into the picture by the figure in the foreground.*

3 **draw in** **draw into** *sth*

if a train draws in, it arrives at a station and stops: *The train drew into the station five minutes late. | As soon as the train drew in and the doors opened, a mass of commuters flooded the station.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

draw off

draw off *sth* **draw** *sth* **off**

to remove some liquid from somewhere, especially by using a pipe or a tube: *Farmers draw off water from the river and use it for their crops. | Doctor Staples drew off some of the fluid from the wound.*

draw on

draw on

formal if a period of time draws on, it passes slowly or comes towards its end: *Night drew on, and still there was no sign of Warren. | As the evening drew on, she began to feel more and more tired.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wear on**

draw on/upon

● **Draw upon** is more formal than **draw on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **draw on/upon** *sth*

to use part of a supply of something, especially money you have saved, for a particular purpose: *I don't want to draw on my savings to pay the rent. | The state drew on emergency funds to help victims of the tornado. | Manchester United have huge reserves of talent which they can draw on.*

2 **draw on/upon** *sth*

to use knowledge, information, or your personal experiences to help you do something: *Writers often draw on their own personal experience to create stories and characters. | It will be necessary to draw on information from earlier studies in order to reach a conclusion.*

3 **draw on/upon** *sth*

to breathe in the smoke from a cigarette: *Stern smiles as he draws on his cigar. | I paused and drew deeply on my cigarette before answering the question.*

draw out

1 **draw** *sb* **out**

to make a shy or nervous person feel more comfortable and willing to talk: *You can probably draw him out if you start talking about politics. | Margaret had a way of drawing me out, even in a big crowd of people.*

2 **draw out** *sth* **draw** *sth* **out**

to make something continue for longer than is usual or necessary: *Last minute questions drew the meeting out for another hour.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **prolong** *formal*

drawn-out ADJ
taking much more time than is usual or necessary: *This is going to be a long drawn-out fight between two sides who don't want to reach a compromise.*

3 **draw out** *sth* **draw** *sth* **out**

to make a sound last longer than usual when you say it: *She drew out the 'oo' sound when she said the word 'disapprove'.*

4 **draw out** *sth*

to make someone tell you about something or make them show you their feelings: *Mom always managed to draw out a confession from us after we had done something wrong. | Psychiatrists often try to draw out people's feelings by asking them questions about their experiences.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **elicit** *formal*

5 **draw out**

if a train draws out, it slowly begins to leave a station: *When I arrived at the station, the train was just drawing out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull out**

6 **draw out**

if a vehicle draws out, it slowly moves onto the road: *A truck drew out in front of me, forcing me to slam on the brakes.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull out**

7 **draw out**

if the days draw out, it stays light until later in the evening: *The summer days drew out, and life took on a slower pace.*

draw up

1 **draw up** *sth* | **draw** *sth* **up**

to prepare a contract or other official agreement, or a list or plan: *I'll have my lawyer draw up a contract for you to look over. | Western diplomats helped draw up the peace agreement in Cambodia. | Management is drawing up plans to reorganize the department.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **draft**

2 **draw up**

if a vehicle draws up, it arrives somewhere and stops: *As the blue car drew up, the driver leaned out the window to ask for directions. | A man in a sedan drew up beside Candice and whistled at her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull up**

3 **draw up a chair**

to bring a chair closer to something or someone so that you can sit near them: *Miller shyly drew up a chair and joined the men at the poker table. | Draw up a chair – there's plenty of room.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull up**

4 **draw yourself up (to your full height)**

to stand up very straight, especially in a way that shows that you feel very annoyed or determined: *Polly drew herself up to her full height and said "I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about." | She had drawn herself up, looking outraged. "You have no right to ask me that question."*

5 **draw up your knees**

to move your knees or legs closer to your body when you are sitting: *Rick drew up his knees to let me pass by. | She sat on the mat, drawing her knees up and breathing deeply.*

6 **be drawn up**

if soldiers are drawn up, they are arranged in order: *The troops were drawn up in ranks, awaiting their orders.*

draw upon

SEE **draw on/upon**

DREAM

dreamed or dreamt, dreamed or dreamt, dreaming

D

dream away

dream away *sth* | **dream** *sth* **away**

if you dream away time, you pass it by thinking about pleasant things rather than doing what you should be doing: *Kira stayed in her room, dreaming away the hours until Stephen came home.*

dream of

sb wouldn't dream of (doing) sth

spoken used to say that someone would never do something because they think it is wrong or stupid: *Stan wouldn't dream of asking his parents for money. | You know I didn't mean to hurt you – I wouldn't dream of it. | I wouldn't dream of walking through Central Park on my own at night.*

dream on

dream on!

spoken informal used to say that you think that what someone is hoping for will not happen: *So you think you're going to win the lottery? Dream on, honey! | He can dream on – I'd never go out with him in a million years!*

dream up

dream up *sth* | **dream** *sth* **up**

to think of a plan or idea, especially one that seems strange, unusual, or silly: *Whoever dreamed up this idea should have their head examined. | The whole story was probably dreamed up by left wing lunatics.*

DREDGE

dredged, dredged, dredging

dredge up

1 **dredge up** *sth* | **dredge** *sth* **up**

to talk about something that happened a long time ago, especially when this is embarrassing

or annoying for someone: *Newsweek magazine dredged up some remarks that Mr Mason had made several months earlier. | The media is always dredging up stories about what movie stars did before they became famous.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drag up, dig up**

2 **dredge up** *sth* **dredge** *sth* **up**

to remember something with great difficulty: *Robertson tried to dredge up an image of her in his mind, be he really couldn't remember what she looked like.*

3 **dredge up** *sth* **dredge** *sth* **up**

to make yourself feel a particular feeling, such as interest or sympathy when you do not really want to do this: *Vologsky managed to dredge up some sympathy for the old man.*

4 **dredge up** *sth* **dredge** *sth* **up**

to pull something up from the bottom of a river, lake etc: *The flood dredged up sand and rocks from the centre of the river.*

D

DRESS

dressed, dressed, dressing

dress down

1 **dress down**

to wear clothes that are more informal than you usually wear: *Employees are allowed to dress down on Fridays and come to work in jeans and T-shirts. | Women are dressing down much more these days.*

● OPPOSITE: **dress up**

2 **give** *sb* **a dressing down**

old-fashioned to punish someone by telling them angrily that they have behaved badly: *When he arrived late again, he was taken to the boss's office and given a dressing down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell off**

dress up

1 **dress up**

to put on formal clothes or your best clothes, for example in order to go to work or for a special occasion: *Do you have to dress up for work? | Grandma always dressed up and went to church every Sunday.*

get dressed up *I love to get dressed up and go out to a concert or the theatre.*

● OPPOSITE: **dress down**

2 **dress up** **dress up** *sb* **dress** *sb* **up**

to put on special clothes for fun, especially so that you look like someone else, or to make someone do this

+ in *Little girls often like dressing up in their mother's clothes. | Some men get a kick out of dressing up in women's clothing.*

+ as *Raymond wants to dress up as Dracula for Halloween. | At Christmas, my mother used to dress me up as an elf.*

be dressed up in/as sth *Several people at the party were dressed up in cowboy boots and big hats.*

3 **dress up** *sth* **dress** *sth* **up**

to make something sound more interesting, attractive, or acceptable than it really is: *The Labour government has tried to dress up its policies and make them sound more environmentally friendly.*

+ as *His photographs are just pornography, dressed up as art.*

DRIFT

drifted, drifted, drifting

drift apart

drift apart

if people drift apart, their relationship gradually ends: *As we grew older, we started to drift apart. | Many couples say they would have drifted apart if it weren't for their children.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grow apart**

drift off

1 **drift off**

to gradually fall asleep: *It was 2:00am when I finally drifted off to sleep. | Orlando drifted off into a deep and dreamless sleep.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doze off, nod off**

2 **drift off**

to walk slowly to another place or area: *We drifted off down Main Street, not in any hurry to return to work. | After dinner, couples drifted off to explore around the castle grounds.*

3 **drift off**

to stop listening or paying attention to someone or something: *In class, Kate seems to drift off into her own world. | I tried to listen to what he was saying, but I kept drifting off.*

DRILL

drilled, drilled, drilling

drill into

drill *sth* **into** *sb*

to tell someone something again and again until they know it very well: *My parents have drilled the importance of education into me since I was a small child. | Our elementary school teachers drilled that song into me so well that I can still remember every word.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drum into, din into** *BrE old-fashioned*

DRINK
drank, drunk, drinking

drink down

drink *sth* **down**

to drink something quickly, especially by swallowing it all at once: *Miguel drank the beer down in record time.* | *Dying of thirst, I drank down several glasses of water in less than a minute.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drink**

drink in

drink in *sth* **drink** *sth* **in**

if you drink in something that you see, read, or hear, you give all your attention to it and enjoy it very much: *Don't rush through Paris – take time to drink everything in.* | *Redford drank in the praise critics gave his recent film.*

drink to

1 **drink to** *sth/sb*

to wish someone success, good luck, or good health by holding up your glass before drinking something: *Let's drink to the New Year!* | *Guests drank to the bride and groom.* | *Ladies and gentlemen, please raise your glasses and drink to the health and happiness of Annabelle and Tony.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toast**

2 **I'll drink to that!**

spoken used to say that you like or agree with what someone has said: *"If things don't change soon, I'm going to quit my job." "I'll drink to that!"*

drink up

drink up *sth* **drink** *sth* **up** **drink up**

to drink all of something: *Drink up – the bar will be closing soon.* | *That night we drank up all the beer we could lay our hands on and sang ourselves hoarse.*

DRIP
dripped, dripped, dripping

drip with

1 **be dripping with blood/sweat/water etc**

to be covered with so much blood etc that it is falling off your body: *I tried to move but I couldn't – my right arm was dripping with blood.* | *John had just been for a swim, and he came in dripping with water.*

2 **be dripping with** *sth*

to have a lot of a particular quality – often used to show disapproval: *He was a Frenchman, darkly handsome and dripping with self-assurance.* | *"How fascinating," she said, her voice dripping with sarcasm.*

be dripping with money *informal* (=be very rich) *Sandra's family were absolutely dripping with money.*

DRIVE
drove, driven, driving

drive at

what *sb* **is driving at**

what someone is really trying to say, when they are not saying it directly: *"Morton, what are you driving at?" "I think we're in trouble, Mahoney, big trouble."* | *Melissa realised what I was driving at... that I suspected Alain had been murdered.*

* SIMILAR TO: **what sb is getting at**

D

drive away

1 **drive away** *sb* **drive** *sb* **away**

to behave in a way that makes someone leave you, especially someone that you had a relationship with: *His heavy drinking and violent temper eventually drove Beth away.*

2 **drive** *sb* **away** **drive away** *sb*

if something drives away people such as customers and tourists, it makes them stop coming to a place: *Reports in the media about drug related crime in Golden Gate Park are driving visitors away.* | *For the past 30 years composers have been writing music that ordinary people don't like, and they have driven audiences away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put off**

3 **drive away** *sth* **drive** *sth* **away**

if something drives away a thought or a feeling, especially an unpleasant one, it makes you stop thinking about it or feeling it: *Kerry kissed him, and that one kiss drove away all his pain and filled his heart with happiness.*

* SIMILAR TO: **banish** *formal*

drive down

drive down *sth* **drive** *sth* **down**

to force prices or costs to decrease very quickly: *Cheap imported steel would drive down the price of steel in the United States, causing producers to reduce their output.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring down**

● OPPOSITE: **drive up**

drive off

1 **drive off**

if a car or driver drives off, the driver leaves in his or her car: *After the accident the other car just drove off.* | *Cynthia stormed out of the house, got into her car, and drove off.*

2 **drive off** *sb* **drive** *sb* **off**

to force someone who is attacking or threatening you to stop and go away: *They keep dogs in the yard to drive off intruders. | We began hurling snowballs, and eventually a few well placed shots drove off our attackers.*

3 **drive off**

if someone playing golf drives off, they hit the ball for the first time at the start of a game or hole (=part of a golf course with a hole in the ground at the end): *Tiger Woods drove off at the thirteenth hole.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tee off**

D

drive on

drive on

to continue going forward in a vehicle, without stopping or after stopping for a short time: *After resting for an hour or two we drove on to Laredo. | Maxwell drove on, in spite of the thickening fog.*

drive out

drive out *sb/sth* **drive** *sb/sth* **out**

to force someone or something to leave a place

+ of *Huge rent increases are driving many small businesses out of town.*

drive up

drive up *sth* **drive** *sth* **up**

to force prices or costs to increase very quickly: *Airlines worry that the cost of this extra security will drive ticket prices up so high that people will stop flying. | Affluent city people looking to buy a second home are driving up house prices in rural areas.*

● OPPOSITE: **drive down**

DRONE

droned, droned, droning

drone on

drone on

to speak for a long time in a very boring way, without any variety in the sound of your voice: *The speaker had been droning on for hours, when I noticed that he still had a large stack of slides to go through.*

+ about *She droned on and on about how sad her life was, and about how she hadn't got a boyfriend.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bang on** *BrE informal*, **witter on** *BrE informal*

DROOL

drooled, drooled, drooling

drool over

drool over *sb/sth*

to look at someone or something in an excited, and often silly, way that shows you think they are very attractive: *Audrey had her face pressed up against the shop window, and was drooling over a sapphire necklace. | Sylvia and Tabitha lay on the beach, drooling over a couple of young men playing frisbee.*

DROP

dropped, dropped, dropping

drop away

1 **drop away**

especially BrE if a feeling or something that has a bad effect on you drops away, you stop feeling it or being affected by it: *All of a sudden, his anger dropped away. | I took up yoga, and soon all of my aches and pains dropped away, as if by magic.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go away, disappear**

2 **drop away**

if land drops away, it slopes down very steeply: *The road was built into the mountainside, with deep ravines dropping away below. | To her left, the ground dropped away to the river below, sheer and terrifying.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall away**

drop back

drop back

if someone who is walking, riding, or driving with a group drops back, other people pass them and they move to a position nearer the back: *Coulthard was in the lead, but now he's dropped back to fourth place. | I dropped back till I was walking beside McMurphy. There was something I needed to talk to him about.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop behind, fall behind, lag behind**

drop behind

drop behind

to move more slowly than the other person or people you are with, so that they move ahead of you: *Gareth walked much too fast for her, and got annoyed whenever she dropped behind.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop back, fall behind, lag behind**

drop by

drop by

informal to make a short visit to someone you

know well, usually without making a definite arrangement before: *If you're in the area again just drop by and say hello.* | *See you later, Willy. Thanks for dropping by.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop in** *informal*, **drop over** *informal*, **stop by**

drop in/into

1 **drop in** | **drop into** *sth*

informal to make a short visit to someone or go into an office, shop, bar etc for a short time, usually without making a definite arrangement before: *I'm glad you dropped in – it's good to see you.* | *He used to drop into the office for a chat whenever he was passing that way.*

drop in on sb *I think I'll drop in on Jill on my way home.*

+ at *For more information call this number or drop in at your local welfare office.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pop in** *informal*, **call in** *BrE*

drop-in centre N [C]
BrE a place run by the local council, where people can go to get advice and information and to meet other people, without having to make an arrangement before: *a drop-in centre for the unemployed*

2 **drop in** *sth* | **drop** *sth* **in** | **drop** *sth* **into** *sth*

BrE informal to deliver something to someone or to a place: *I'll put a copy on disk for you, and drop it in on my way to work.* | *I'll drop it into the office while I'm in town.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop off** *informal*, **drop over** *informal, especially BrE*, **drop round** *BrE informal*

3 **drop** *sb* **in it**

BrE informal to cause trouble for someone, especially by saying something that makes someone else angry with them: *I'm sorry if I dropped you in it, but she asked me why you weren't here.* | *I reckon the company have dropped themselves in it by ignoring these complaints.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **land sb in it** *informal*

drop off

1 **drop off** *sb/sth* | **drop** *sb/sth* **off**

informal to take someone or something to a place by car, especially while you are driving to somewhere else: *I'm going past the station. I can drop you off if you like.* | *My wife usually drops the kids off at school on her way to work.* | *I'll drop you off at the corner, OK?* | *I just have to drop these books off at Emma's place.*

● OPPOSITE: **pick up**

dropping-off point N [C]
BrE a place at an airport, train station etc where cars and taxis can stop for a short time to allow their passengers to get out

2 **drop off**

informal to begin to sleep: *I must have dropped off. When I opened my eyes, I saw that the train had just gone past Abergele.* | *Gill was exhausted and dropped off to sleep as soon as her head touched the pillow.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **doze off, nod off**

3 **drop off**

if the amount or number of something drops off, it becomes less: *A huge advertising campaign attracted large audiences when the film opened, but then the numbers rapidly dropped off.* | *Sales began to drop off, and the company was forced to close down its Sunderland factory.* | *The Eagle Ski Club used to organise tours, but demand dropped off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall off**

drop-off N [C]
a reduction in the number or amount of something

+ in *Boeing is suffering from a drop-off in commercial aircraft orders.*

drop out

1 **drop out**

to leave school, college, or university before you have finished your course: *Too many students are joining gangs, getting into drugs, and dropping out after sixth grade.*

+ of *Kertzman dropped out of Brandeis University in 1968 to become a radio disc jockey.*

drop-out N [C]
informal someone who leaves school, college, or university without finishing their course: *a high school drop-out*

drop-out rate N [C]
the number of students who leave a course before finishing it: *If a course has a high drop-out rate, ask yourself why.*

2 **drop out**

to refuse to take part in ordinary society, especially by not getting a job: *In the '60s my mother dropped out and went to live in a hippie commune.*

drop-out N [C]
someone who refuses to take part in ordinary society because they do not agree with its social customs, moral standards etc, so that they refuse to get a job – used about someone you disapprove of: *The place was full of hippies and drop-outs.*

3 **drop out**

to not take part in an activity, or to leave it before it has finished: *Donna was supposed to*

D

come with us, but she couldn't get a babysitter, so she had to drop out. | *The next meeting is just before Christmas, so we're expecting a lot of people to drop out.*

+ of *Harper had to drop out of the race with an injured ankle after completing 12 miles.*

4 **drop out**

if a word, expression, or grammar rule drops out of a language, it is no longer used

+ of *The pronouns 'thee' and 'thou' have dropped out of the language, with the exception of some regional dialects.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disappear from**

D

drop over

1 **drop over**

BrE informal to make a short visit to someone you know well who lives near you, usually without arranging a particular time for your visit: *Sean said he might drop over this evening after badminton.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop in** *informal*, **drop by** *informal*, **drop round** *BrE informal*, **call round** *BrE*

2 **drop** *sth* **over**

informal, especially BrE to deliver something to someone who lives near you: *If you still want to borrow my sewing machine, I could drop it over this evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop round** *BrE informal*

drop round

1 **drop round**

BrE informal to make a short visit to someone you know well who lives near you, usually without making a definite arrangement before: *"I thought I'd drop round to see Irena after work," she said.* | *Her grandchildren drop round and see her from time to time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop in** *informal*, **drop over** *BrE informal*, **call round** *BrE*

2 **drop** *sth* **round**

BrE informal to deliver something to someone who lives near you: *I've got a present for you – I'll try and drop it round this weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop over** *informal, especially BrE*, **drop off** *informal*

DROWN

drowned, drowned, drowning

drown in/with

1 **be drowning in** *sth*

informal if you are drowning in something, you have so much of it that you cannot deal with it: *I'm drowning in work at the moment. Can I call you back later?* | *Some businesses are drowning in data, but cannot get the information they need.*

2 **drown** *sth* **in/with** *sth*

to cover a dish with too much of another liquid food: *Grant drowned his pancakes with syrup.* | *The fish was well cooked, but drowned in a sauce that was lumpy and rather tasteless.*

drown out

drown out *sth* **drown** *sth* **out**

if one noise drowns out another noise, it stops that noise from being heard: *John started to speak, but his voice was drowned out by the traffic.* | *The couple next door started arguing again, and I turned up my stereo to drown out the noise.*

DRUG

be drugged up

be drugged up

informal if someone is drugged up, they have been given a lot of drugs by a doctor, or have taken a lot of drugs: *I went to the hospital to see him, but he was still drugged up after the operation.*

be drugged up to the eyeballs *BrE* (=given a lot of drugs by a doctor, so that you cannot behave normally) *It's no fun lying in a hospital bed, drugged up to the eyeballs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be doped up**

DRUM

drummed, drummed, drumming

drum into

drum *sth* **into** *sb*

to tell someone something and repeat it many times, so that they will understand how important it is and will never forget it: *Our coach drummed into us the importance of working together as a team.* | *It was drummed into me never to borrow money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drill into, din into** *BrE old-fashioned*

drum out of

drum *sb* **out of** *sth*

to force someone to leave an organization because they have done something wrong: *Jack was caught stealing and was drummed out of the army.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick out, throw out, boot out** *informal*

drum up

drum up *sth*

to get people's support for something, or increase their interest in something: *Peter Mandelson was in Los Angeles last week,*

drumming up support for the peace process in Northern Ireland. | Doggett and her fellow black Republicans are employing creative ways of drumming up both voters and money.

drum up business *These days the 'sale' signs are permanently up in high street stores, as they try desperately to drum up business.*

DRY

dried, dried, drying

dry off

dry off | **dry off** *sth* | **dry** *sth* **off**

to become dry or make something dry, especially on the surface: *It was lovely being able to swim and then dry off in the sun. | She washed the apples then dried them off with a paper towel.*

dry yourself off (=dry yourself with a towel after a bath or swim) *Carrie returned from showering, wrapped in a towel. She began to dry herself off, talking to me over her shoulder.*

● COMPARE: **dry out**

dry out

1 **dry out** | **dry out** *sth* | **dry** *sth* **out**

to become completely dry on the inside and the outside, or to make something completely dry on the inside and the outside: *Put your coat near the fire or it won't dry out properly. | Cover the meat with fat to prevent it from drying out, and roast it in the oven for two hours.*

2 **dry out**

informal to stop being an alcoholic (=someone who regularly drinks too much alcohol and cannot stop): *a well-known TV actor who spent eight weeks in a clinic, trying to dry out*

dry up

1 **dry up** | **dry up** *sth* | **dry** *sth* **up**

if a river or lake dries up, the water in it disappears: *Most of the lakes in the park have dried up, for they rely on the north-east monsoon.*

dried-up ADJ
a dried-up river or lake is one that no longer has any water in it: *We walked along the dried-up river bed.*

2 **dry up** | **dry up** *sth* | **dry** *sth* **up**

if something dries up, or something dries it up, it loses the liquid that was in it, especially with the result that it is no longer good or useful: *Put the lid back on the tin, or the paint will dry up. | Have you got a pen I can borrow? This one's dried up.*

3 **dry up**

if a supply of something dries up, it comes to an end and there is no more available: *Work on the tunnel stopped when the money dried up. | This factory once produced high-tech equipment for the Russian military, but government orders have dried up, and 6000 workers have lost their jobs.*

4 **dry up** | **dry up** *sth* | **dry** *sth* **up**

BrE to rub plates, cups, dishes etc with a cloth to dry them after they have been washed: *"I'll wash." She threw him a tea towel. "You dry up." | Would you mind drying up the breakfast things?*

* SIMILAR TO: **wipe** *BrE informal*

5 **dry up**

BrE to stop speaking when you are making a speech or acting in a play, because you have forgotten what you were going to say: *I was terrified that I would forget all my lines and dry up.*

6 **dry up!**

spoken informal used to tell someone to be quiet when you are angry with them, because they are talking or complaining too much: *Oh, dry up! You've done nothing but complain since we got here!*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut up!** *spoken informal*

DUB

dubbed, dubbed, dubbing

dub in

dub in *sth* | **dub** *sth* **in**

if people who are making a film dub in a sound or voice, they record it separately and then add it to the final film: *Is it acceptable for applause to be dubbed in after a concert has been filmed? | The backing vocals were a bit weak, so we re-recorded them and dubbed them in.*

dub into

dub *sth* **into** *sth*

if a film or television show is dubbed into another language, the original sound is replaced by a different recording, so that the actors appear to be speaking a different language: *It's funny watching American shows like 'Friends' dubbed into German. | Is the movie dubbed into French, or does it have subtitles?*

dub out

dub out *sth* | **dub** *sth* **out**

if people who are making a film dub out a sound or something that an actor says, they remove it from the final film so that it cannot

be heard: *An edited version of the movie was shown on TV, with the most violent scenes cut, and all the swear words dubbed out.*

dub over

dub over *sth* | **dub** *sth* **over**

if people who are making a film dub over the original sound of the film, they replace it with sound that has been recorded separately: *Pepsi are making Russian-language TV commercials, rather than dubbing over English ones as most other western companies do.*

DUCK

D

ducked, ducked, ducking

duck out

duck out

informal to avoid doing something that you do not want to do, but have to do or have promised to do: *I'm not trying to duck out, but I do think someone else could do this job.*

+ of *Parents who do not discipline their children are ducking out of their responsibilities.* | *"I've got a meeting at 2 o'clock." "Can you possibly duck out of it and meet me? I've got a horrendous problem."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get out of**

DUFF

duffed, duffed, duffing

duff up/in/over

duff up/in/over *sb* | **duff** *sb* **up/in/over**

BrE spoken informal to hit and kick someone a lot in order to hurt them: *Let's go and duff him in.* | *If you don't pay up, he'll get his mob to duff you over.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bash up** *BrE informal*

DUKE

duked, duked, duking

duke out

duke it out

AmE informal if two people, groups, or organizations duke it out, they fight or compete against each other: *a mad criminal and a gutsy stewardess duking it out on a jumbo jet headed for Los Angeles*

+ with *She rolled up her sleeves as if getting ready to duke it out with him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fight it out**

DUMB

dumbed, dumbed, dumbing

dumb down

dumb down *sth* | **dumb** *sth* **down**

to change books, television programmes, education etc in a way that makes them only suitable for very unintelligent people: *TV news has already been dumbed down to the point where it is presented as mere entertainment.* | *Many high school teachers claim that the reformed curriculum has dumbed down math teaching.*

dumbing-down N [U]
when things are dumbed down

+ of *There's too much dumbing-down of serious issues.* | *an anti intellectual dumbing-down of textbooks*

dumbed-down ADJ
made too simple in a way that is only suitable for unintelligent people: *Hollywood has produced a series of dumbed-down versions of literary classics.*

DUMP

dumped, dumped, dumping

dump on

1 **dump** *sth* **on** *sb*

informal to give someone work to do or a problem to deal with when this is unfair, because it is not part of their job and should be done by someone else: *I'm sorry to dump all this on you, but I'm just so tied up with the conference at the moment that I just don't have the time to deal with it.*

2 **dump on** *sb*

informal to treat someone badly, especially by giving them too much work to do: *He was always complaining about how his boss dumped on him and how he was just expected to work late every day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **exploit**

3 **dump on** *sb*

AmE informal to tell someone all your problems: *Sorry to dump on you like that, but I needed to talk about my day at work.*

4 **dump on** *sb*

AmE informal to criticize someone strongly and often unfairly: *If you dump on your employees, don't expect morale to be high.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slag off** *BrE informal*

DUST

dusted, dusted, dusting

dust down/off

1 | **dust down/off** *sth* | **dust** *sth* **down/off** |

to remove dirt or dust from something, using your hands or a cloth or brush: *He got up off the ground and dusted down his trousers. | Alan pulled a wooden elephant out of the box, and dusted it off.*

dust yourself down/off *Anabelle picked herself up and dusted herself off. She was bruised, but not seriously hurt.*

2 | **dust down/off** *sth* | **dust** *sth* **down/off** |

to get something ready to be used after not using it for a long time: *Investors are at last dusting down their cheque books as the economy recovers. | It's '70s night at Club Fantastic, so dust off your platform shoes and come on down and boogie.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig out**

DWELL

dwelt or *dwelled, dwelt* or *dwelled, dwelling*

dwell on/upon

● **Dwell upon** is more formal than **dwell on** and is used mostly in writing.

| **dwell on/upon** *sth* |

to think or talk about something for too long, especially something that is unpleasant: *It doesn't do any good to dwell on the past – try to be more positive. | I don't want to dwell on the subject, but I think we should all be aware of the problem.*

DWINDLE

dwindled, dwindled, dwindling

dwindle away

| **dwindle away** |

if something dwindles away, it gradually becomes smaller and smaller or less and less until it disappears completely: *Maria looked at Fran lying in the hospital bed, her hope dwindling away. | Germany and France have found themselves increasingly uncompetitive in world markets. As a result, jobs have dwindled away.*

+ to *Their business had collapsed and their savings had dwindled away to nothing.*

D

E

EARTH

earth, earthed, earthing

earth up

earth up | **earth up** *sth* | **earth** *sth* **up**

BrE to pile soil around plants in order to protect the roots or help the plants to grow: *Earth up around Brussels sprouts to protect them from the wind.*

EASE

eased, eased, easing

E

ease off/up

1 **ease off/up**

to gradually become less – use this especially about something when you hope it will stop or disappear: *I think the rain is beginning to ease off.* | *"Are you feeling any better?" "Yeah, the pain in my shoulder has eased up a little."* | *Ichiro's workload has finally eased up, and his whole mood has changed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let up**

2 **ease off/up**

to treat someone less severely or criticize them less than before

+ **on** *Ease off on Roger, will you – he's doing all right.*

3 **ease off/up**

to work less hard or do something with less energy than before: *Dan should ease up or he'll have a nervous breakdown.* | *Liverpool eased off in the second half, allowing Arsenal to score.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slow down**

ease out

ease out *sb* | **ease** *sb* **out**

to force someone to leave their job or position of authority, in a way that makes it seem as if they have chosen to leave

+ **of** *He was eased out of his job as presidential adviser when his role in a sex scandal was conveniently leaked to the press.*

ease up

SEE **ease off/up**

EAT

ate, eaten, eating

eat away

1 **eat** *sth* **away** | **eat away** *sth*

especially BrE to gradually reduce something by taking parts of it away: *New housing estates are still being built, and they are gradually eating away our countryside and woodlands.*

* SIMILAR TO: **erode** *formal*

2 **eat away** *sth* | **eat** *sth* **away**

if water or chemicals eat something away, they gradually destroy it: *Acids are corrosive, that is, they eat away other materials.* | *The floor of the car had been eaten away by rust.*

* SIMILAR TO: **erode, corrode**

eat away at

1 **eat away at** *sb*

if an unpleasant thought eats away at you, it makes you feel very worried over a long period of time: *What she did is eating away at her. She bitterly regrets the hurt she caused.* | *Economic anxiety eats away at people who work in America.*

* SIMILAR TO: **eat sb up**

2 **eat away at** *sth*

to gradually destroy something by continuously damaging it: *It was discovered that pollution in the atmosphere was eating away at the carvings.* | *The disease eats away at the brain until it kills the patient.* | *Racial conflict is eating away at American society.* | *Workplace stress eats away at your energy and self-esteem.*

eat in

1 **eat in**

to eat a meal at home instead of going to a restaurant: *I'm too tired to go out – let's eat in instead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dine in** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **eat out**

2 **eat in**

to eat inside a restaurant instead of taking your food somewhere else to eat: *"Two burgers and two coffees, please." "To eat in or take away?"*

eat into

eat into *sth*

to use or take away part of something valuable, especially money or time: *The company was forced to cut prices sharply, eating into its profits.* | *Jet lag can eat into precious holiday time.*

eat out

eat out

to eat a meal in a restaurant, instead of at home: *I don't feel like cooking – let's eat out.* | *People are spending more money now on vacations, eating out, health clubs and things like that.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dine out**

● OPPOSITE: **eat in**

eat up

1 **eat up** | **eat up** *sth* | **eat** *sth* **up**

to eat all of something: *There's some bacon in the fridge that needs eating up.* | *In parts of Binh Dinh province, huge rats were eating up the crops.*

eat up! *spoken* (=used to tell a child to eat all of his or her food) *Come on, Kaylee, eat up!*

2 **eat up** *sth* | **eat** *sth* **up**

to use a lot of something, such as money or time, especially so that there is none left: *My car broke down last month, and the repairs ate up all my savings.* | *The job ate up most of his time, including weekends and holidays.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **use up**

3 **eat up** *sb* | **eat** *sb* **up**

if unhappy thoughts or feelings eat you up, they make you feel very upset, angry etc and you cannot think of anything else: *It just eats me up how those kids are totally ignored by their parents.* | *Angel lay on his bed, eaten up by jealousy – by the thought that Luke was going out with Maria.*

eat sb up inside *He may be a free man, but if he did kill his wife, it's going to eat him up inside.*

4 **eat** *sth* **up** | **eat up** *sth*

AmE informal to be excited about something and enjoy it very much: *Maybe we should put out an investigative news program – audiences eat that stuff up.* | *Vickroy uses games to teach little kids how to get fit, and the kids eat it up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lap up**

EBB

ebbed, ebbed, ebbing

ebb away

1 **ebb away**

if something, especially a feeling or someone's strength ebbs away, it gradually becomes weaker until it disappears completely: *As I thought about all the problems involved, my confidence began to ebb away.* | *The team had almost won, but their strength was ebbing away by the minute.* | *Liverpool's hopes of winning the European Cup were slowly ebbing away.*

2 *sb's* **life ebbs away**

if someone's life ebbs away, they are dying: *The young soldier's life was slowly ebbing away.*

EDIT

edited, edited, editing

edit out

edit out *sth* | **edit** *sth* **out**

to remove part of a film, programme, book etc before it is shown or printed, for example in order to make it shorter or avoid offending people: *Large parts of the interview were edited out before it was shown on TV.*

+ of *Several offensive passages had been edited out of the book.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cut**

E

EFF

EFF off

● **Eff off** is another way of saying **fuck off**. **Fuck off** is extremely rude and offensive.

eff off!

BrE spoken informal used to tell someone very rudely to go away: *Just eff off, will you, and leave me alone!* | *Why don't you tell him to eff off?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fuck off!** *taboo spoken*, **piss off** *spoken informal*

EGG

egged, egged, egging

egg on

egg *sb* **on** | **egg on** *sb*

to encourage someone to do something, especially something that is not sensible or safe: *Joe didn't want to jump, but his friends kept egging him on.* | *The two men, egged on by an excited crowd, started to fight.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **goad on, lead on**

EKE

eked, eked, eking

eke out

1 **eke out** *sth* | **eke** *sth* **out**

to make money, food, or supplies etc last as long as possible by using them carefully because you only have a small amount available: *A lot of elderly people have to eke out very small pensions as best they can.*

2 **eke out a living/existence**

to get enough food and money to live, but only with difficulty: *People had to choose between going to work in the towns, or eking out a miserable existence on their farms.*

3 **eke out a win/victory etc**

AmE to win by only a few points or votes: *Ann Richards eked out a victory over Williams.*

ELBOW

elbowed, elbowed, elbowing

elbow out

elbow out *sb/sth* **elbow** *sb/sth* **out**

to force someone or something out of a position or job, especially so that another person or thing can have it: *David was worried that the other people at work were trying to elbow him out of his job.* | *According to our survey, Seattle is now the best place to locate a business, elbowing out Atlanta for the top spot.*

E

EMANATE

emanated, emanated, emanating

emanate from

emanate from *sth/sb*

formal to come from a particular place or person, and to spread from them: *Delicious smells were emanating from the kitchen.* | *A series of financial shocks emanated from New England.* | *These ideas emanated from Jacques Reuff, among others.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from**

EMBARK

embarked, embarked, embarking

embark on/upon

● **Embark upon** is more formal than **embark on** and is mostly used in writing.

embark on/upon *sth*

to start doing something, especially something new and difficult that will take a long time: *In the 1950s, China embarked on a major programme of industrialization.* | *Burton decided to give up his teaching post, and embark on a career in the City.*

EMBROIDER

embroidered, embroidered, embroidering

embroider on

embroider on *sth*

to add details that you have invented to a story or description, in order to make it sound more interesting or impressive: *The story was repeated from one person to another, and each one embroidered on it a little.* | *Goldwyn did not try to hide his origins, but he would sometimes embroider on them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **embellish** *formal*

EMBROIL

embroiled, embroiled, embroiling

be embroiled in

be embroiled in *sth*

to be involved in an argument, war, or an unpleasant situation, especially when you did not want to be involved in it: *They found themselves embroiled in a long and bitter legal battle with their former employers.* | *The Americans were afraid of becoming embroiled in another Vietnam War.* | *Profumo became embroiled in a steamy sex scandal which ended his career.*

EMPTY

emptied, emptied, emptying

empty out

1a **empty out** *sth* **empty** *sth* **out**

if you empty out a container, you remove everything that is inside it: *I emptied out the shopping bags and put everything away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn out**

1b **empty out** *sth* **empty** *sth* **out**

if you empty things out from a container, you remove them from it: *He slowly emptied out all his clothes from the drawers and packed them into suitcases.*

2 **empty out**

if a place empties out, all the people in it leave: *The club usually empties out about two in the morning.*

ENAMOUR *BrE* ENAMOR *AmE*

be enamoured of/with

1 **be enamoured of/with** *sth*

formal to like something very much: *Farmers weren't particularly enamoured of the idea of a common agricultural policy.* | *She became so enamored with Parisian designs that she directed Cassini to copy them for her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be keen on**

2 **be enamoured of/with** *sb*

old-fashioned literary to be very fond of someone: *It was obvious to everyone that Lady Westville was not enamoured of her husband.* |

Mr Darcy seems very enamoured with you. | *Gustave became so enamoured of Gertrude that he would hardly let her out of his sight.*

ENCASE

encased, encased, encasing

encase in

| encase | *sth/sb* | in | *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

to cover or enclose something or someone completely with something else: *The statue was transported back to Britain and encased in glass to protect it.* | *The wealthy upper classes encased their dead in immense coffins lined with lead.*

ENCROACH

encroached, encroached, encroaching

encroach on/upon

● **Encroach upon** is more formal than **encroach on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 | encroach on/upon | *sth* |

formal to gradually take away someone's rights or freedom, or reduce someone's power or authority – used to show that you disapprove of this: *Civil Liberty groups are worried that the new laws will encroach upon our freedom of speech.*

2 | encroach on/upon | *sth* |

formal to reduce the amount of time that someone has available to do their work or do what they want to do: *Weitz has had a lot of personal problems this year, which have obviously encroached on his work.* | *Most people try to prevent their work from encroaching on their private lives.*

3 | encroach on/upon | *sth* |

formal to gradually cover more and more land, or take control of someone else's land – used especially to show that you disapprove of this: *Everywhere we look, new housing developments are encroaching on our countryside.* | *In the King's absence, his enemies began to encroach on his territories.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invade**

END

ended, ended, ending

end in

| end in | *sth* |

to have a particular result, or to finish in a particular way – used especially to say that something is unsuccessful or has a bad ending: *In Britain, two out of three marriages end in divorce.*

end in failure/disaster/tragedy etc *Talks aimed at preventing the strike ended in failure after six hours of negotiation.* | *The match ended in tragedy when one of the boxers died in the ring.*

end in tears (=end with people feeling unhappy, annoyed etc – often used humorously) *Stop quarrelling you two! You know it'll all end in tears.*

* SIMILAR TO: **culminate in** *formal*

end up

1 | end up |

to be in a situation that you did not intend or want to be in, because of something that has happened to you or something you have done

end up in court/prison/hospital *Tom got into a fight and ended up in court.* | *Soon afterwards she ended up in hospital after a drug overdose.*

+ as *Too many teenage girls are ending up as single parents.*

+ with *You'll end up with pneumonia if you're not careful.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wind up, finish up** *BrE informal*, **land up** *BrE*

2 | end up doing | *sth* |

to do something that you did not intend or want to do, especially because you cannot seem to avoid doing it: *He came for a couple of days and ended up staying a month!* | *We always seem to end up arguing with each other.*

3 | end up |

to arrive in a place without planning or wanting to go there, for example because you lost your way: *We took several wrong turns, and ended up in Wigan by mistake.* | *They ended up in a bar near the docks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wind up, finish up** *BrE informal*

ENDEAR

endeared, endeared, endearing

endear to

| endear | *sb* | to | *sb* |

if a person's character or behaviour endears that person to you, it makes you like them: *Sarah's very keen to learn, which endears her to her teachers.* | *Clinton's sexual antics didn't exactly endear him to the voters.*

endear yourself to sb (=to make yourself popular with people by the way you behave or what you achieve) *Wilkinson scored the only goal, immediately endearing himself to the fans.*

E

ENDOW

endowed, endowed, endowing

endow with

be endowed with *sth*

formal to naturally have a particular ability or feature, especially a good one: *Healy was a good public speaker and endowed with extraordinary energy.*

be well/richly endowed with sth (=have a lot of it) *The island is well endowed with mineral deposits.*

ENGAGE

engaged, engaged, engaging

engage in

1 **be engaged in** *sth*

to be involved in something, especially something that continues for a long time: *Officials are engaged in a debate with the company over the safety of its newest aircraft.* | *The French government were engaged in a desperate attempt to maintain their control of Indo-China.*

2 **engage in** *sth*

formal to take part in an activity or a particular area of interest, business etc: *We try to create opportunities for students to engage in new and challenging activities.* | *Women were discouraged from engaging in political life.*

3 **engage** *sb* **in conversation**

formal to start a conversation with someone: *She tried to engage Anthony in conversation, but he didn't respond.*

engage on/upon

● **Engage upon** is more formal than **engage on** and is mostly used in writing.

be engaged on/upon *sth*

BrE formal if you are engaged on a particular type or piece of work, that is what you are doing at the time: *During the war Richards was engaged on work of a secret nature.* | *The chairman, Ed Borkovsky, is currently engaged on a European tour to promote the conference.*

ENGROSS

be engrossed in

be engrossed in *sth*

to be very interested or involved in something, especially so that you do not notice or show an interest in anything else: *Rourke was so engrossed in conversation with the girl that he didn't even see me come in.* | *Anna seemed to be completely engrossed in her new life at university and we hardly ever heard from her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be absorbed in**

ENLARGE

enlarged, enlarged, enlarging

enlarge on/upon

● **Enlarge upon** is more formal than **enlarge on** and is mostly used in writing.

enlarge on/upon *sth*

formal to give more details or information about something you have already said or written: *I sat patiently, waiting for Tom to enlarge on his last remark.* | *Would you care to enlarge on your last remark?* | *In a recent interview she enlarged on this theme in conversation with Kenneth Harris.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **expand on/upon**

ENQUIRE

SEE **inquire**

ENSURE

SEE **insure**

ENTER

entered, entered, entering

enter for/in

a **enter for/in** *sth*

to take part in a race, competition, or examination: *Twenty yachts entered in the annual Fastnet race on Wednesday.* | *Candidates may enter for both examinations, if they wish.*

b **enter** *sb/sth* **for** *sth*

enter *sb/sth* **in** *sth*

to arrange for a person, team, animal etc to take part in a race, competition, or examination: *Do you know how many teams have been entered for the competition?* | *Peter entered his horse in a local show and won several prizes.*

enter into

1 **enter into an agreement/contract etc**

to make an official agreement to do something or to pay someone else to do something: *Compaq and Microsoft announced that they had entered into an agreement to develop new products and markets.*

+ with *Birmingham City Council have entered into a contract with a building company for the construction of a block of offices.*

2 | **enter into** *sth* |

to start to become involved in something, especially a discussion or a relationship: *The Mexican government was willing to enter into negotiations as soon as possible.* | *At the time I didn't feel ready to enter into a new relationship.*

3 | **enter into** *sth* |

to be an important part of a situation or be something that you consider, especially when you are making a choice

enter into it *If we are choosing a new employee, age doesn't enter into it," said Anne Clinton, the company's Personnel Manager.*

enter into sth *Of course, other considerations entered into the decision-making process.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come into sth**

enter on/upon

● **Enter upon** is more formal than **enter on** and is mostly used in writing.

| **enter on/upon** *sth* |

formal to begin something, especially something that will continue for a long time: *The economy is entering upon a period of sustained growth.*

* SIMILAR TO: **embark on/upon**

ENTITLE

entitled, entitled, entitling

be entitled to

| **be entitled to** *sth* |

if you are entitled to something, you have the right to have it or to do it: *All children under sixteen are entitled to free medical treatment.* | *I'm only giving you my advice – you're entitled to your own opinion.*

entitle sb to sth *Three of these tokens entitle you to free entry to Warwick Castle.*

ERODE

eroded, eroded, eroding

erode away

1 | **be eroded away/erode away** |

if rock or soil is eroded away or erodes away, water or the wind gradually removes its surface or breaks it into pieces, until it disappears: *All the soil and loose stones had been eroded away, leaving only the smooth grey rock.* | *Parts of the cliff are in danger of eroding away.*

2 | **be eroded away/erode away** |

if someone's power, confidence, freedom etc is eroded away or erodes away, it is gradually destroyed: *When John left me, I felt that all my self-respect and confidence had been eroded away.* | *Over a decade, English military power eroded away.*

ETCH

etched, etched, etching

etch into/on

1 | **be etched into/on** *sth* |

if a picture, pattern, or writing is etched into something made of metal, glass, or stone, it is cut into it and forms a permanent part of it: *When he retired they gave him a beautiful glass bowl, with his initials etched into it.* | *Ancient drawings were etched on the walls of the cave.*

2 | **be etched into/on** *sb's* **face** |

literary if an expression is etched into someone's face, it is so strong and noticeable that it looks permanent: *She felt sad, looking at the grey lines of weariness etched into his face.*

3 | **be etched into/on your mind/brain/memory** |

literary to be something that you will never forget because it had such a powerful effect on you – used especially about something unpleasant: *I saw scenes of violence which will be etched on my mind forever.*

EVEN

evened, evened, evening

even out

a | **even out** |

if the way that something is shared or divided evens out, it becomes more equal: *Some people seem to get all the luck – but it usually evens out in the end.* | *The payments you make will even out over the year.*

b | **even out** *sth* | | **even** *sth* **out** |

to make something become more equal, by sharing or spreading something more equally: *We want to try and even out the work load a little, so that nobody has more than they can handle.*

even up

| **even up** *sth* | | **even** *sth* **up** |

to make a situation more equal or fair, especially in a game or competition: *Mike came in and joined our team, which helped to even things up a little.* | *When we needed one more player to even up the sides in football, we used to ask Bob.*

E

EXPAND
expanded, expanded, expanding

expand on/upon

● **Expand upon** is more formal than **expand on** and is mostly used in writing.

expand on/upon *sth*

to give more details or information about something that you have already said or written: *I'd like to expand on that point in a minute.* | *Hutton expands on this theme in the next chapter of his book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enlarge on/upon**

EXPATIATE
expatiated, expatiated, expatiating

expatiate on/upon

E

expatiate on/upon *sth*

old-fashioned literary to speak or write about a particular subject in detail or for a long time: *Alistair began to expatiate very amusingly on his liking for good food.*

EXPECT
expected, expected, expecting

expect of

1 **expect** *sth* **of** *sb/sth*

to think or demand that someone should do something because it is their duty or it seems reasonable: *When I first joined the company, I wasn't sure what was expected of me.*

expect a lot/more of sb *She seems to expect an awful lot of her staff.* | *Middle class parents tend to expect more of their children and push them a lot harder at school.*

2 **expect** *sth* **of** *sb*

to think that it is likely that someone will do something or behave in a particular way: *My husband made a fantastic recovery – far better than we expected of him.* | *The money had been carefully invested, as might be expected of the Tyson family.*

EXPLAIN
explained, explained, explaining

explain away

explain away *sth* | **explain** *sth* **away**

to give reasons for a mistake you made or something bad that happened, to try and make people think it is not your fault or not very serious: *David wondered how he would explain away the accident.* | *NATO had a hard time explaining away the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.* | *Unemployment was at its highest level ever, and the figures were not easily explained away.*

+ as *Dad's sickness could no longer be explained away as the flu.*

EYE
eyed, eyed, eyeing

eye up

1 **eye up** *sb* | **eye** *sb* **up**

informal, especially BrE to look at someone carefully, in a way that shows you find them sexually attractive: *That guy at the bar keeps eyeing you up, Kelly.* | *Margot saw two younger women eyeing up her boyfriend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check out** *AmE*, **ogle**

2 **eye up** *sth* | **eye** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to look at something for a long time or very carefully, because you want it or are interested in it: *Ed's gone to buy that hi-fi he's been eyeing up for weeks.* | *She was eyeing up a Danish pastry in the window.*

F

FACE

faced, faced, facing

face about

face about

BrE to turn so that you are looking in the opposite direction: *He paused, lit a cigarette, then faced about and walked quickly away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn around**

face down

face down *sb/sth* | **face** *sb/sth* **down**

especially AmE to deal with someone or something in a strong and confident way: *Lyman faced down a roaring lion when he was on an African safari.*

face off

face off

AmE if two people or groups face off, they fight, argue, or compete against each other: *Under Louisiana law, the two top candidates will face off in the second election November 16. | The Twins and The Braves faced off at 6:00 last night in Atlanta.*

face-off N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
AmE a situation in which two people or groups are fighting or playing a game against each other: *The situation gradually calmed down after a 24-hour face-off between demonstrators and the police.*

face up to

face up to *sth*

to accept that an unpleasant fact is true or that a difficult situation exists, and realize that you have to deal with it instead of trying to ignore it: *It won't be easy to find another job; you'd better face up to it.*

face up to the fact (that) *It's often difficult to face up to the fact that you are no longer young.*

face up to your responsibilities *"He's never really faced up to his responsibilities as a father," Suzy said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **face**

be faced with

be faced with *sth*

if you are faced with a difficult problem, situation, choice etc, you have to deal with it: *There was almost no evidence and police were faced with a seemingly impossible task. | The business was doing really badly, and we were faced with mounting debts. | Faced with these sorts of difficulties, many women chose to give up their careers as soon as their first child was born.*

FACTOR

factored, factored, factoring

factor in/into

factor in *sth* | **factor** *sth* **in** | **factor** *sth* **into** *sth*

to include a particular thing when you are calculating the total amount of something or making a judgment or decision about something: *Once interest payments are factored in, the debt over 30 years increases to $694 million. | When you are measuring a school's success, the students' backgrounds need to be factored in.*

● OPPOSITE: **factor out**

factor out

factor out *sth* | **factor** *sth* **out**

especially AmE to not include a particular thing when you are calculating the total amount of something or making a judgment or decision about something: *The firm projects that wages will rise 11% after inflation is factored out.*

● OPPOSITE: **factor in**

F

FADE

faded, faded, fading

fade away

1 **fade away**

if something that you can hear or see fades away, it gradually becomes less loud or clear, and then disappears: *She listened to Zach's footsteps fading away down the staircase.*

+ **into** *Dave's figure faded away into the darkness.*

2 **fade away**

if something such as a feeling, idea, or attitude fades away, it gradually becomes less strong and then disappears: *Hopes of a peace settlement were beginning to fade away. | Eventually all opposition to the idea faded away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dissolve** *formal*

3 **fade away**

to gradually become weaker and then die: *Mum never really recovered after the operation – she just faded away.*

fade in
ALSO **fade up** *BrE*

fade in | **fade in** *sth* | **fade** *sth* **in**

if sound or a picture fades in, or is faded in, it gradually becomes louder or clearer – used about recorded sound or pictures in a film, television programme, record etc: *Romantic music slowly fades in, as the lovers walk hand in hand into the sunset.* | *The computer game starts with a lot of multicolored stars, and then some text fades in.*

fade out

1 **fade out**

to gradually disappear or stop happening: *The marches and the protests faded out and people went back to their normal lives.* | *Sometimes the trail faded out and they had to search for another one.*

2 **fade out** | **fade out** *sth* | **fade** *sth* **out**

if sound or a picture fades out, or you fade it out, it becomes less loud or clear and gradually disappears – used about recorded sounds or pictures in a film, television programme, record etc: *The film we were watching faded out and was replaced by a newsflash.* | *The DJ faded out one record and put on another.*

fade up

SEE **fade in**

F

FAFF
faffed, faffed, faffing

faff about/around

faff about/around

BrE informal to waste time doing unnecessary things, especially when you should be doing something else instead: *Have you nearly finished faffing around in the bathroom?* | *We spent the whole morning faffing about trying to find a garage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **fart about/around** *informal*, **putz around** *AmE informal*

FAG
fagged, fagged, fagging

be fagged out

be fagged out

BrE spoken informal to be extremely tired: *I'm completely fagged out – I didn't get to sleep till 4 am.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be shagged out** *BrE spoken informal*

FAINT
fainted, fainted, fainting

faint away

faint away

BrE to suddenly become unconscious for a short time, because you are very weak, ill, or shocked: *Several fans at the match had fainted away in the blazing heat.*

* SIMILAR TO: **faint**

FAKE
faked, faked, faking

fake out

fake *sb* **out** | **fake out** *sb*

AmE informal to deceive someone by making them think you are planning to do something when you are really planning to do something else: *Sherrard faked out Jesperson, moved past him, and scored the winning goal.*

FALL
fell, fallen, falling

fall about

fall about

BrE informal to laugh a lot about something, especially without being able to stop: *The situation was so ridiculous that we all just fell about.*

fall about laughing *All the kids fell about laughing as soon as the teacher left the room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** *informal*, **crease up** *BrE informal*

fall apart

1 **be falling apart**

to be in very bad condition, and need repairing: *I'm not going in your car – it's falling apart!* | *The school was in a very old building, which looked like it was falling apart.*

2 **fall apart**

if something falls apart, it breaks into pieces, especially because it is old or badly made: *The book fell apart in my hands as soon as I picked it up.* | *I'd only had the shoes a couple of months before they fell apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come apart, disintegrate** *formal*

3 **fall apart**

if an organization, system, relationship etc falls apart, it is not working successfully any more and often fails completely: *Diana's marriage to Charles was falling apart.* | *By the end of 1934, the Independent Labour Party was falling apart.* | *In countries like Hungary*

and Poland, the old Communist system had largely fallen apart.

be falling apart at the seams (=used to emphasize that something is in very bad condition) *When Thatcher took over, the British economy was falling apart at the seams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **collapse**

4 **fall apart**

if someone falls apart, they have problems which affect them mentally or emotionally and they cannot think or behave normally: *My father had just died and everything was going wrong – in the end I just fell apart.* | *She's so tense about her job – if she goes on like this, she'll fall apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** *informal*

5 **sb's world/life falls apart**

if someone's world or life falls apart, something bad happens which changes their life, causing them serious problems and making them upset: *When Jim's wife left him, his world just fell apart.* | *Saxton's life fell apart when he failed a drugs' test two weeks before the Olympic Games.*

fall away

1 **fall away**

if something falls away from the surface that it is joined to, it breaks off and becomes separated from it: *As soon as I picked up the flower, its petals fell away and fluttered to the ground.*

+ from *Several large rocks had fallen away from the cliff into the sea.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall off**

2 **fall away**

if land, a road etc falls away, it slopes down, especially suddenly: *Sarah ran forward and then stopped as the ground fell away before her.* | *To our left, the road seemed to fall away into a valley.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop away**

3 **fall away** NOT PROGRESSIVE

if a feeling or something that has a bad effect on you falls away, you stop feeling it or being affected by it: *At last Petey saw her coming, and his anger immediately fell away.* | *As soon as I found out the truth, all my worries fell away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, disappear**

4 **fall away**

especially BrE if the amount or rate of something falls away, it decreases: *Our profits have fallen away sharply during the last two years.* | *Support for the strike has started to fall away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall off, fall back, drop**

5 **fall away**

BrE if a sound or the wind falls away, it gradually becomes quieter or less strong and then disappears: *The singer's voice grew louder, and then slowly fell away.* | *The fierce wind which started in the evening, fell away during the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **die away**

fall back

1 **fall back**

to suddenly move backwards or away from someone or something, because you are very surprised, frightened etc: *Flossie's father was so surprised that he fell back against the door.* | *She ran forward to the figure on the ground, and the rest of the crowd fell back, silent.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recoil** *formal*

2 **fall back**

if soldiers fall back, they move back away from the enemy in order to avoid fighting: *General Patton immediately ordered his men to fall back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **retreat**

3 **fall back**

to move or travel more slowly than another person, car etc, with the result that you are behind them: *As soon as we were in sight of the truck, we fell back in order not to be seen.* | *Grand Hawk fell back to second place after the last jump.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop back, fall behind**

4 **fall back**

especially BrE if the amount or rate of something falls back, it decreases: *Car sales fell back dramatically in the second half of the year.* | *The pound climbed to a healthy 2.50 Deutschmarks, before falling back later to 2.47.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop**

fall back on/upon

● **Fall back upon** is more formal than **fall back on** and is mostly used in writing.

fall back on/upon *sth*

to use something because other things have failed or because there is no other choice left: *If this doesn't work, we'll just have to fall back on our original plan.* | *Celia fell back on the only excuse she could think of.* | *You should save a bit of money – then you'll always have something to fall back on.*

fall-back ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a fall-back position, method, plan etc is one that you use when your first choice fails: *It is important that we have a good fall-back position, in case these negotiations break down.*

F

fall-back N [C]
something that you have available to use for when your first method, choice etc fails: *Many people have a second insurance policy as a fallback.*

fall behind

1 **fall behind** | **fall behind** *sb*

to gradually get behind other people who you are with, because you are moving more slowly than them: *I started to fall behind almost as soon as the race began.* | *The little boy had fallen behind his mother and was crying.*
* SIMILAR TO: **lag behind, drop behind**
● OPPOSITE: **keep up**

2 **fall behind** | **fall behind** *sb/sth*

to fail to make as much progress or to achieve the same standard as another person, country, organization etc: *Children from poor families are more likely to fall behind at school.* | *They were worried that Russia was falling behind the US in the arms race.*
* SIMILAR TO: **lag behind**
● OPPOSITE: **keep up**

F

3 **fall behind** | **fall behind** *sth*

to fail to do something by a particular date that has been agreed, especially paying money that you owe, or finishing some work

+ with *After losing his job, Darren fell behind with his mortgage payments.* | *He fell behind with his rent and was thrown out of the apartment.*

fall behind schedule *The project to build the bridge had already fallen behind schedule, and there were still some technical problems to overcome.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get behind**

4 **fall behind** *sth*

to fail to increase at the same rate as something else: *Over the last few years, our salaries have fallen behind inflation.* | *Demand fell behind production, and prices dropped.*
● OPPOSITE: **keep up**

5 **fall behind** | **fall behind** *sth/sb*

to fail to score as many points as another team or player in a competition: *Princeton started slowly, and fell behind 16–9 in both games.* | *Osborne's team fell behind Miami 17–7 in the second half.*

fall down

1 **fall down**

to fall onto the ground: *She slipped on the ice, fell down and broke her leg.* | *During the night, several trees had fallen down.*
* SIMILAR TO: **fall over**

2 **be falling down**

if a building is falling down, it is in very bad condition and needs repairing: *There were very few hospitals, and the ones that did exist were falling down.*
* SIMILAR TO: **delapidated** *formal*

3 **fall down**

BrE to fail to be good enough or to be successful because of a particular reason or in a particular way: *Where the book falls down is in the poor quality of the colour reproductions.* | *"What if someone doesn't keep up with the payments?" "That's when the whole system falls down."*

fall down on the job (=fail to do what you should be doing on your job) *I'm appalled by her attitude. It suggests I'm falling down on the job.*

downfall N [SINGULAR]
when someone loses their position of power, or stops being successful
+ of *the downfall of Margaret Thatcher*

be sb's downfall if something is someone's downfall, it causes them to lose their position of power, or stops them from being successful: *In the end, his pride was his downfall.*

fall for

1 **fall for** *sth*

informal to be tricked into believing something that is not true: *You didn't think I'd fall for that old excuse, did you?* | *Politicians seem to think that we'll fall for any old rubbish.*

fall for sth hook, line, and sinker (=be tricked into believing something completely, although it is not true) *He said that he wanted to leave his wife and marry her, and she fell for it hook, line and sinker.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be taken in by sth**

2 **fall for** *sb*

to suddenly feel very attracted to someone and feel that you love them: *It's the story of a middle-aged teacher who falls for one of his students.* | *A lot of people wonder why Fergie fell for Johnny Bryan.*

3 **fall for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to like something very much as soon as you see it, and feel that you want to have it: *Mark had only seen the house once, but he'd fallen for it immediately.*

fall in

1 **fall in**

if a roof or ceiling falls in, it falls to the ground, especially because it is old or damaged: *The house was still there, but the*

windows were all broken and the roof had fallen in.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cave in**

2 **fall in**

to start walking or forming lines behind or next to other people: *The soldiers fell in, one behind the other.*

fall in behind/beside sb *"This way!" he shouted and the group fell in behind him.*

fall into

1 **fall into** *sth*

to start to be in a bad condition or in a bad situation – used in the following phrases:

fall into decay/ruin/disrepair/disuse *The cathedral fell into disrepair over the next fifty years.*

fall into a coma *Griffin fell into a coma before he reached the hospital.*

2 **fall into** *sth*

to start doing something or being involved in something, often without intending to – used especially in the following phrases:

fall into conversation/a discussion (=start talking) *On the way home, I fell into conversation with the man sitting beside me.*

fall into the habit of doing sth *At work, he'd fallen into the habit of having a cup of coffee every time he passed the machine.*

fall into a deep sleep *I fell into a deep sleep as soon as I lay down.*

3 **fall into a category/group/type etc**

to belong to a particular group of things or people that is different from other groups: *The subjects you can study fall into three distinct groups. | Our customers have always fallen into several different categories.*

4 **fall into** *sth*

to contain or be divided into two or more different parts: *Your role will fall into two main areas: staff recruitment and training. | The evening's discussion falls into three parts.*

fall in with

1 **fall in with** *sb*

informal to become friends with someone or with a particular group of people after meeting them by chance: *I hope she doesn't fall in with the wrong kind of people at college. | In France, Deng fell in with some young Chinese communists, led by Chou-En-lai.*

2 **fall in with** *sth*

BrE to accept someone else's plan, suggestion etc and not try to change it or disagree with it: *I'm quite happy to fall in with whatever you decide. | Lea decided it was best to fall in with his wishes, in order to keep the peace.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go along with**

fall off

1 **fall off**

if something falls off, it becomes separated from something that it is joined to, especially because it is old or damaged: *I picked up the suitcase and the handle fell off. | One of the engines fell off the plane on a flight from Miami to Minneapolis.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop off**

2 **fall off**

if the amount, rate, or standard of something falls off, it decreases or becomes lower: *Jaguar's US car sales have fallen off since 1986. | The standard of acting seemed to fall off in the second half of the play.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop, drop off, fall away**

fall-off ALSO **falling-off** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
when the amount, rate, or standard of something decreases or becomes lower

+ in *Some clubs have had to close due to a fall-off in attendance. | a falling-off in demand*

fall on

fall on *sth*

if a date falls on a particular day of the week, it happens on that day: *Christmas fell on a Saturday that year.*

fall on/upon

● **Fall upon** is more formal than **fall on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **fall on/upon** *sb*

if a duty or job falls on someone, they become responsible for dealing with it or getting it done, especially because someone else cannot do it: *When her mother died, responsibility for the family fell upon Sheila.*

it falls on sb to do sth *Jane was off sick, so it fell on me to organize the whole thing.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall to**

2 **fall on/upon** *sth*

literary to start eating food quickly and eagerly, because you are very hungry: *He fell on the meal in front of him, as if he hadn't eaten for weeks.*

3 **fall on/upon** *sb*

literary to suddenly attack or get hold of someone: *Some of the older boys fell on him, and broke his glasses.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set on/upon**

4 **fall on/upon** *sb*

literary to throw your arms around someone and often kiss them, because you are happy

F

to see them or excited about something: *The kids fell on their uncle as soon as he opened the door.*

5 **fall on/upon** *sb*

literary to happen to someone – used about something unpleasant: *Alexi was afraid of the punishment and revenge that might fall upon him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **befall** *formal*, **happen to**

fall out

1 **fall out**

to have an argument with someone and stop being friendly with them

+ with *Becker was depressed because he'd fallen out with his girlfriend.*

+ over *Apparently the two men fell out over money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **argue, quarrel**

falling-out N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
if you have a falling-out with someone, you have an argument with them and stop being friendly with them: *There were reports that some members of the team had had a falling-out.*

F

2 **fall out**

if your hair or a tooth falls out, it becomes loose and separates from your body: *My Dad's hair fell out when he was only thirty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out**

3 **fall out** USUALLY IN COMMANDS

if soldiers fall out, they stop standing in a line and move away to different places: *The soldiers were ordered to fall out and return to base.*

● OPPOSITE: **fall in**

fall over

1 **fall over**

to fall to the ground, or to fall down from an upright position: *The Rangers defender slipped and fell over as he was running for the ball.* | *That pile of books will fall over if you put any more on top.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall down, topple over**

2 **fall over** *sth*

to hit your foot against something by mistake and fall to the ground: *I fell over an empty box that someone had left outside the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trip over**

3 **be falling over yourself to do** *sth*

to be very eager to do something, especially when this seems very surprising: *The manager was falling over herself to be helpful.* | *Suddenly he found that women were falling over themselves to go out with him.*

fall through

fall through

if an agreement, plan etc falls through, something prevents it from happening or being completed successfully: *My holiday plans have fallen through, so I don't know where I'll go this year.* | *We'd accepted an offer of $200,000 for the house, but the sale fell through at the last moment.*

fall to

1 **fall to** *sb*

if a duty or job falls to someone, they become responsible for dealing with it or getting it done, especially when this is difficult or unpleasant: *No one else wanted to do it, so the job fell to me.*

it fell to sb to do sth *It fell to me to give her the bad news.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall on**

2 **fall to** *sth*

literary to suddenly start doing something: *Everyone fell to work, and they didn't stop till midday.*

fall to doing sth *Whenever the family got together, they always fell to arguing about politics.*

fall under

1 **fall under** *sb's* **control/rule/influence**

to become controlled, governed, or influenced by a particular group, country, or person: *By then large areas of the country had fallen under Palestinian control.* | *The Commission had fallen under the influence of the KGB.*

2 **fall under** *sb/sth's* **spell**

to become very attracted by someone or something: *As soon as I went to Paris, I fell under its spell.*

3 **fall under a category/heading etc**

to be included in a particular group or description of things: *The new job falls under the heading of Sales and Marketing.*

fall upon

SEE **fall on/upon**

FAN

fanned, fanned, fanning

fan out

1 **fan out**

if a group of people or things fans out, they move forwards and away from each other so that they gradually spread over a wide area:

He ordered his men to fan out and search every inch of the field. | *Hundreds of volunteers will fan out along the coast to pick up litter.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **spread out**

2 | **fan out** *sth* | | **fan** *sth* **out** |

to arrange a group of things so that they form the shape of a half circle: *Theo fanned out the cards and asked me to pick one.* | *Cut up an apple and gently fan out the slices on a serving plate.*

FARM

farmed, farmed, farming

farm out

1 | **farm out** *sth* | | **farm** *sth* **out** |

to arrange for work to be done by another company or by someone outside your company, instead of doing it yourself: *Ian thinks we should farm the project out, but I think we can organize it ourselves.* | *Most of the editing is farmed out to freelancers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **contract out**

2 | **farm out** *sb* | | **farm** *sb* **out** |

to arrange for someone to be looked after by someone else, because you are too busy to look after them: *My parents were both working, so ended up being farmed out to my grandparents or one of my aunts.*

FART

farted, farted, farting

● **Fart** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

fart around
ALSO **fart about** *BrE*

| **fart about/around** |

informal to waste time doing silly or unnecessary things, especially when you should be doing something else: *Stop farting around and get on with your work!* | *I've been farting about in meetings all morning and I haven't had time to get anything done.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*, **piss about/around** *BrE informal*

FASTEN

fastened, fastened, fastening

fasten on/upon

● **Fasten upon** is more formal than **fasten on** and is mostly used in writing.

| **fasten on/upon** *sth* |

formal to give particular attention to something, especially because you think it is important, useful, or serious: *The press was quick to fasten on the dangers of genetically modified foods.*

fasten on to sth *He immediately fastened on the fact that she didn't have much experience of marketing.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **home in on, latch on to/onto**

fasten onto

| **fasten onto** *sb* |

to follow someone and stay with them, especially when they do not want you to: *Stella immediately fastened onto the best-looking man at the party and refused to leave his side.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **latch on to/onto**

fasten up

| **fasten up** *sth* | | **fasten** *sth* **up** |

| **fasten up** |

to join together two sides of something such as a coat, shirt, bag etc so it is closed, or to become joined in this way: *Fasten up your coat – it's freezing outside.* | *My fingers are so numb I can't fasten my shirt up properly.* | *This bag is too full – it won't fasten up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **do up**

fasten upon

SEE **fasten on/upon**

FATHOM

fathomed, fathomed, fathoming

fathom out

| **fathom out** *sth/sb* | | **fathom** *sth/sb* **out** |

BrE to understand something or someone after thinking about them carefully, especially when they seem strange or confusing: *I sometimes find it difficult to fathom out the workings of Emma's mind.* | *It's hard to fathom out why a mother would abandon her child.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fathom, figure out, work out**

FATTEN

fattened, fattened, fattening

fatten up

| **fatten up** *sth/sb* | | **fatten** *sth/sb* **up** |

to make an animal fatter by giving it a lot of food. Also used humorously about people: *The turkeys are being fattened up for Christmas.* | *Keith always looks so thin – he needs fattening up a bit.*

F

FAVOUR BrE FAVOR AmE

favoured, favoured, favouring BrE
favored, favored, favoring AmE

favour with

favour *sb* **with** *sth*

old-fashioned formal to give someone a look or a reply, or do something special for someone – often used humorously: *He favoured Lucy with a broad grin, then went back to his work. | It was several days before she favored him with an answer to his proposal.*

favour sb with your presence (=come to visit someone – used especially to criticize someone in a joking way because they are late or often do not come) *Will you be favouring us with your presence this evening?*

FAWN

fawned, fawned, fawning

fawn on/over

fawn on/over *sb*

F

to praise someone and be friendly to them, especially in a way that is not sincere, because you want them to like you or give you something: *Political candidates are fawning over wealthy businessmen, hoping for generous campaign donations. | The Prince was constantly surrounded by beautiful young women, all fawning on him and trying to get into bed with him.*

FEAR

feared, feared, fearing

fear for

fear for *sth/sb*

if you fear for something or someone, you feel worried that they may be in danger: *Calaway assured him that he has no reason to fear for his job.*

fear for sb's life/safety *Fearing for his life, Williams left the country. | Witnesses feared for their safety and refused to give reporters their true names.*

FEAST

feasted, feasted, feasting

feast on/upon

● **Feast upon** is more formal than **feast on** and is mostly used in writing.

feast on/upon *sth*

to eat a lot of a particular food with enjoyment: *Afterwards they went to a posh restaurant and feasted on smoked salmon and champagne. | At the festival you can feast on raw oysters and steamed clams. | Mythology portrays ancient gods feasting upon ambrosia and nectar.*

FEED

fed, fed, feeding

feed back

feed back   **feed back** *sth*

to give someone your opinion or the latest information about something, especially so it can be improved or changed

+ to *Consumers are able to feed back to the company about its products.*

+ with *I am grateful to all those who fed back with their comments and suggestions.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **report back**

feedback N [U]
advice, criticism etc about how good or useful something is: *We've received some negative feedback from customers on the new computer software.*

feed in/into

feed *sth* **into** *sth*   **feed in** *sth*

feed *sth* **in**

to put something into a machine, especially information or money: *Information about the weather conditions is fed into a computer so that forecasts can be made. | I kept feeding money into the machine, but I still didn't win anything.*

feed into

feed into *sth*

if a river or road feeds into a bigger river or road, it joins it: *Several rivers feed into the River Humber, including the River Derwent and the River Ouse.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **join**

feed off

1 **feed off** *sth*

if an animal feeds off something, it gets food from it: *Crows circled overhead, waiting to feed off the bodies of dead animals.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feed on**

2 **feed off** *sth*

to use something in order to continue to exist or to get an advantage for yourself – used especially to show disapproval: *The press and the Royal Family feed off each other – they both need each other in order to survive. | Some people accused him of feeding off his father's reputation as a writer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feed on**

feed on

1 **feed on** *sth*

if an animal feeds on a particular food, it usually eats that food: *Owls feed on mice and other small animals.* | *Butterflies feed on nectar collected from flowers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feed off**

2 **feed** *sth/sb* **on** *sth*

to regularly give an animal or person a particular kind of food to eat: *The cattle are fed on barley and grass.* | *Parents feed their children on all kinds of rubbish, but they still seem to grow up OK in the end.*

3 **feed on** *sth*

to use something in order to become stronger or more successful, especially people's fears or worries – used especially to show disapproval: *The Fascists were able to feed on people's fears about the country's economic situation.* | *Prejudice feeds on mistrust and ignorance.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feed off**

feed to

feed *sth* **to** *sth/sb*

to give an animal or person a particular food: *Don't feed those apples to the squirrels!* | *How can you feed that junk to your kids?*

feed up

1 **feed** *sb* **up**

BrE to give someone a lot of food, especially to make them healthy and not too thin: *When I was young, my grandmother was always trying to feed me up with sweets and biscuits.* | *A lot of models these days look like they need feeding up.*

2 **be fed up**

informal to be bored, annoyed, or unhappy, especially because a situation that you do not like has continued for too long: *You look fed up. What's the matter?*

+ with *People are fed up with airport delays.* | *She got fed up with being treated like some kind of servant.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hacked off** *informal*

FEEL

felt, felt, feeling

feel around for

feel around

to use your hands to search for something you cannot see: *Richard reached into the attic and felt around for the boxes.* | *Feeling around for some pocket change to make a phone call, Tom stood up and left the table.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feel for**

feel for

1 **feel for** *sb*

to feel sympathy for someone because they are in a difficult, sad, or unpleasant situation, often because you have been in a similar situation yourself: *I feel for Donnie – it's not easy being a teenager.* | *She felt for Karen, but she had a family of her own to look after.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sympathize with**

2 **feel for** *sth*

to use your hands to search for something you cannot see: *I felt for the list I had put in my pocket.* | *Suzanne entered the dark hotel room and felt for the light switch.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feel around for**

feel out

feel *sb* **out** | **feel out** *sb*

informal to ask someone's opinion or feelings about something: *I'll try and feel him out about the idea and see what he thinks.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sound out**

feel up

feel *sb* **up**

informal to touch someone in a sexual way, without their permission in a way that is unpleasant and annoying: *Some guy tried to feel me up at the bar last night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **touch up** *BrE informal*

feel up to

feel up to *sth*

to feel well enough to do something, or feel that you have enough energy or strength to do something: *Can we go for a run another time? I don't really feel up to it today.*

feel up to doing sth *Are you sure you feel up to going into work?* | *I didn't feel up to arguing with him, so I just agreed with everything he said.*

FENCE

fenced, fenced, fencing

fence in

1 **fence in** *sth* | **fence** *sth* **in**

to surround an area or building with a fence: *The prison compound was fenced in with barbed wire.*

2 **fence in** *sth* | **fence** *sth* **in**

to keep animals in an area surrounded by a fence: *Jimmy is planning to fence in his chickens to protect them from foxes.*

3 **fence in** *sb* | **fence** *sb* **in** USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone feel that they cannot leave

F

a place or do what they want: *Mothers with young children often feel fenced in at home.*

fence off

fence off *sth* | **fence** *sth* **off**

to separate one area from other areas with a fence: *The owner has fenced off the woodland to stop people getting in.*

+ from *The resort was fenced off from the rest of the island*

FEND

fended, fended, fending

fend for

fend for yourself

to take care of yourself without help from other people: *She should be old enough to fend for herself by now.* | *Towards the end of his life he could no longer fend for himself, and his neighbours used to come in to make his meals for him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look after yourself**

F

fend off

1 **fend off** *sb/sth* | **fend** *sb/sth* **off**

to stop someone or something who is trying to attack or harm you, especially by pushing them away: *He managed to fend off his attackers until the police arrived.* | *Women can take self-defense classes to learn how to fend off an assault.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ward off**

2 **fend off** *sth* | **fend** *sth* **off**

to avoid having to deal directly with something difficult or annoying, for example questions, criticisms, or an unpleasant situation: *Ashcroft tried to fend off any awkward questions about his business affairs.* | *Shea's main role was to fend off criticisms of NATO's bombing campaign in Kosovo.*

FERRET

ferreted, ferreted, ferreting

ferret out

ferret out *sth* | **ferret** *sth* **out**

to succeed in finding something that is difficult to find, especially a piece of information: *She had a way of ferreting out people's secrets.* | *The company is working to ferret out problems with its software.*

* SIMILAR TO: **unearth, dig**

FESS

fessed, fessed, fessing

fess up

fess up

AmE informal to admit that you have done something wrong, or to tell people about something wrong you have done: *Come on, fess up! Who ate the last cookie?*

* SIMILAR TO: **own up, admit, confess**

FETCH

fetched, fetched, fetching

fetch up

1 **fetch up**

BrE to arrive somewhere without expecting to or intending to: *He spent some time in Europe and eventually fetched up in Naples.* | *At lunchtime the four of them fetched up at the pub.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, land up** *BrE*, **wind up**

2 **fetch up**

BrE informal to bring food up from your stomach through your mouth: *Ugh! Winnie has just fetched up all over the floor!*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw up, vomit** *formal*

FIDDLE

fiddled, fiddled, fiddling

fiddle around
ALSO **fiddle about** *BrE*

1 **fiddle around/about**

to make small changes to something in order to try to repair it or make it work better, often in an unsuccessful and annoying way: *Derek fiddled around for half an hour, trying to get the television to work.*

+ with *The government should stop fiddling around with the education system and let teachers get on with their jobs.*

2 **fiddle around/about**

to waste time doing silly or unimportant things: *I'm fed up with fiddling around here all day. Can we go?*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*

FIGHT

fought, fought, fighting

fight back

1 **fight back**

to defend yourself when someone attacks you or causes problems for you, and try to defeat them or stop them: *Finn was wounded*

several times but he continued to fight back. | *Seles lost the first set, but then fought back to win the match 3–6, 6–4, 6–1.* | *In the past, people who were discriminated against were often too scared to fight back.*

fight-back N [C]
when a person, team, organization etc defends themselves against an attacker or opponent and tries to defeat them: *In the second half, United staged a fight-back that almost brought them victory.*

2 **fight back tears/anger/the urge to do** *sth* **etc**

to force yourself not to cry or show your feelings, or force yourself not to do something that you very much want to do: *Fighting back his tears, he waved goodbye to her from the station platform.* | *Sometimes I have to fight back the urge to hit him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

fight down

fight down *sth* **fight** *sth* **down**

to force yourself not to do something that you very much want to do, or force yourself not to be affected by your feelings: *Janice fought down the impulse to scream.* | *He steadied himself against the door, fighting down a wave of dizziness and nausea.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fight back**

fight off

1 **fight off** *sb/sth* **fight** *sb/sth* **off**

to use violence to make someone or something who is attacking you go away: *He fought off his attackers and called the police.* | *The man tried to strangle her, but she managed to fight him off.*

2 **fight off** *sth* **fight** *sth* **off**

to get rid of or try to get rid of an illness or an unpleasant feeling: *If you take extra vitamin C, it helps your body to fight off colds.* | *I tried to fight off my feelings of homesickness by going out as much as possible.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ward off, stave off**

3 **fight** *sb/sth* **off** **fight off** *sb/sth*

to prevent an opponent from defeating you, for example in sport, business, or politics: *Navratilova fought off Sanchez to win the final game of the tournament.* | *The company had to fight off strong competition from its rivals in order to get the deal.* | *So far he has succeeded in fighting off every challenge to his leadership.*

fight out

fight it out

to fight or argue until one person, team etc wins: *John and Margo are prepared to fight it out in court.* | *Next Saturday United and Inter Milan will fight it out for the European Championships.*

fight it out among yourselves (=used to say that you do not want to be involved in someone else's argument or fight) *Let them fight it out among themselves – it's none of our business.*

* SIMILAR TO: **battle it out, slog it out** *BrE informal*

FIGURE

figured, figured, figuring

figure on

figure on *sth*

AmE to expect that something will be a particular amount or number, or expect that something will happen, and include it in your plans: *Ken figured on about 100 people coming to the party.*

figure on doing sth *Figure on spending $700 to $900 for a ticket to Paris.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count on, reckon on** *BrE*

figure out

figure out *sth/sb* **figure** *sth/sb* **out**

to understand something or someone, or find the answer to a question, problem etc, after thinking about them carefully: *I've known Zack for years but I still can't figure him out.* | *It took her a few minutes to figure out what he was trying to say.* | *I'm trying to figure out a way of paying him back the money I owe him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fathom out** *BrE*, **work out** *especially BrE*

FILE

filed, filed, filing

file away

1 **file away** *sth* **file** *sth* **away**

to keep papers with information on them in a particular place so that they are easy to find: *Should we file away these receipts or throw them out?* | *She keeps all of her notes neatly filed away in a cabinet next to her desk.*

2 **file away** *sth* **file** *sth* **away**

informal to carefully remember information about something so that you can use it later: *Every little mistake gets filed away in the back of her mind so that she can use it against you later.*

file for

file for *sth*

to officially ask for permission to do something, especially from a court of law

file for divorce/bankruptcy *After 10 years of marriage, the couple have decided to file for divorce.* | *The country's second largest insurance group have filed for bankruptcy with debts of over $1 billion.*

FILL

filled, filled, filling

fill in

1 **fill in** *sth* | **fill** *sth* **in**

especially BrE to write all the necessary information in the empty spaces on an official document or test: *Before you can open your account you'll need to fill in this application form.* | *The passengers all had to fill in their landing cards.* | *Make sure that you fill in your name, address, and daytime telephone number.*

fill in the blanks (=write your answers in the empty spaces) *I opened my Japanese workbook and started filling in the blanks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill out, complete** *formal*

2 **fill in** *sth* | **fill** *sth* **in**

to put a substance in a hole or crack in order to make a surface smooth again: *You'll need to fill in all the cracks before you paint the walls.*

3 **fill** *sb* **in** | **fill in** *sb*

to tell someone about things that have happened recently or give them information that they need to know in order to do something

+ on *Talk to Jenny – she can fill you in on the details.* | *Mom calls us every Sunday to fill us in on all the latest family news.*

4 **fill in**

to do someone's job while they are ill or absent from work: *Who's going to fill in when Helen's on maternity leave?*

+ for *Quinn is filling in for the newspaper's regular reporter.* | *I can't find anyone to fill in for me on Wednesday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand in**

5 **fill in time**

if you fill in time before something happens, you do something to pass the time so that you do not get bored: *We've got some time to fill in before the show – let's go and have a drink.*

6 **fill in** *sth* | **fill** *sth* **in**

to paint or colour the space inside a shape, especially on paper: *She drew a picture of a bird and used crayons to fill it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **colour/color in**

7 **fill** *sb* **in**

BrE old-fashioned informal to attack someone and hit them hard, especially because you are annoyed with them: *If he does that again, I'm going to fill him in!*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat up, do sb in** *informal*

fill out

1 **fill out** *sth* | **fill** *sth* **out**

to write all the necessary information in the empty spaces on an official document: *If you want to join the library, you'll need to fill out an application form.* | *The patients all had to fill out a questionnaire which asked them about their previous medical history.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill in** *especially BrE*, **complete** *formal*

2 **fill out**

if your body fills out, it becomes fatter or bigger – used especially about thin people who have become fatter or bigger: *Noah used to be a skinny little guy, but he's really filled out in the past year.* | *By age 13, her body had already started to fill out.*

fill up

1a **fill up** *sth* | **fill** *sth* **up**

to make a container full by putting liquid or other things in it: *Can I fill up your glass?* | *We brought two big baskets for the apples, and quickly filled them up.*

1b **fill up** | **fill up** *sth* | **fill** *sth* **up**

to put petrol in a car so that the tank is full. The tank is the part of the car where petrol is stored: *They stopped to fill up at the next gas station.*

fill-up *AmE* N [C]
when you put enough petrol in your vehicle to fill the container that holds the petrol: *Gasco is offering a free carwash with every fill-up.*

2 **fill up**

to become full: *The pubs fill up quickly on Saturday nights.*

+ with *The show was due to begin in 20 minutes, and the theatre was already starting to fill up.* | *New roads rapidly fill up with cars.* | *The room began to fill up with smoke, and people started rushing for the exits.*

3 **fill** *sb* **up**

if a food fills you up, it makes you feel that you have eaten enough and you feel full: *It doesn't take much rice to fill me up.* | *I like to have porridge for breakfast. It really fills you up.*

4 **fill (yourself) up**

to make your stomach feel full by eating a lot of food

F

+ on *If you're extra hungry, fill up on rice, potatoes, or pasta dishes.* | *I used to fill myself up on cereal as soon as I got home from school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stoke up** BrE *informal*

5 **fill up** *sth*

if you fill up a period of time, you use it for a particular activity or purpose: *The manager expects us to fill up every minute of the day with work.* | *Three new programmes were introduced to fill up the fall prime-time television slots.*

FILM

filmed, filmed, filming

film over

your eyes film over

if your eyes film over, they become covered with a thin layer of liquid, so that it is difficult for you to see: *She tried not to cry, but she could feel her eyes filming over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mist over**

FILTER

filtered, filtered, filtering

filter in

filter in

BrE to slowly drive your car into a line of traffic that is already moving, so that the other cars do not have to stop for you: *We had to slow down as more traffic filtered in from the south of Cambridge.*

filter out

1 **filter out** *sth* | **filter** *sth* **out**

to remove a harmful or unwanted substance from a liquid or gas by passing it through a piece of equipment that separates them: *Workers will have to wear masks to filter out all the dust in the air.* | *The lenses are made of special glass which filters out harmful UV rays.*

2 **filter out** *sth/sb* | **filter** *sth/sb* **out**

to separate or get rid of something or someone that you do not want from a group of things or people: *The interviews are intended to filter out unsuitable candidates.* | *We learn to filter out background noise when listening to a particular voice.*

filter through

filter through

if news or information about something filters through, people start to hear about it: *Reports began to filter through of mass executions and ethnic cleansing.*

FIND

found, found, finding

find against

find against *sb*

formal if a judge, court etc finds against someone, they decide that the person has lost their case: *If the judge finds against him, he'll spend the rest of his life in jail.*

● OPPOSITE: **find for**

find for

find for *sb*

formal if a judge, court etc finds for someone, they decide that the person has won their case: *Judge Hayes found for the defendant and ordered that he should be released immediately.*

● OPPOSITE: **find against**

find out

1 **find out** | **find out** *sth* | **find** *sth* **out**

NOT PASSIVE

to get information about something, either by chance or by asking questions, looking in books etc: *I don't know who wrote the song, but I'll try and find out.* | *Don phoned the hospital to find out the result of his test.* | *Teachers should encourage kids to find things out for themselves.*

+ what/where/why etc *Dad was really mad at me when he found out where I'd been.* | *Can you find out exactly what time the film starts?*

+ if *Find out if there's anyone here who speaks English.*

+ that *You'll be in trouble if anybody finds out about this*

2 **find** *sb* **out** USUALLY PASSIVE

to discover that someone has done something wrong or illegal: *The only thing that made him stop cheating was his fear of being found out.* | *Brendan knew she would always find him out if he tried to lie to her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rumble** BrE *informal*

FINE

fined, fined, fining

fine down

fine down *sth* | **fine** *sth* **down**

BrE formal to improve a process, system etc by making it more exact or effective, and especially by getting rid of parts of it that are not necessary: *The whole legal process has been fined down so that cases can be dealt with more quickly and efficiently.*

* SIMILAR TO: **refine**

F

FINISH

finished, finished, finishing

finish off

1 **finish off** *sth* | **finish** *sth* **off**

especially BrE to complete the last part of something that you are doing: *Don't disturb him – he's just finishing off his homework.* | *It'll take me a couple of hours to finish this job off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **complete, finish up** *AmE*

2 **finish off** *sth* | **finish** *sth* **off**

to eat, drink, or use the last part of something: *Ally and I sat outside, finishing off our meal.* | *You'd better finish this toothpaste off before you open a new one.*

* SIMILAR TO: **polish off**

3 **finish off** | **finish off** *sth* | **finish** *sth* **off**

to end an event, programme, meal etc in a particular way or by doing one final thing: *We finished off the evening by opening a bottle of champagne.*

+ **with** *Let's finish off with a roundup of the news.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end, conclude** *formal*

4 **finish** *sb* **off** | **finish off** *sb*

BrE to make someone feel very tired, weak, or unhappy, so that they are unable to continue what they were doing or to live a normal life any more: *That last job's finished me off for the day! I'm going home.* | *We knew that if she failed again, it might finish her off completely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do in** *spoken*

5 **finish** *sb/sth* **off** | **finish off** *sb/sth*

informal to kill a person or animal, especially when they are already wounded or weak: *Two of the victims were still alive, so the executioners finished them off with bayonets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kill**

6 **finish off** *sth* | **finish** *sth* **off**

BrE to complete something by making it attractive in a particular way: *Low growing plants are useful for finishing off the edge of a path or flower bed.* | *a stunning piece of costume jewellery to finish off your party outfit*

7 **finish off** *sb/sth* | **finish** *sb/sth* **off**

to defeat a person or team that you are competing against in a sport: *They were a team we should have easily beaten, but we couldn't quite finish them off.*

finish up

1 **finish up**

BrE informal to arrive or end at a particular place, after going to other places first: *I took a long holiday in Italy and finished up in Rome.* | *The route follows the Rivers Dee and Lune, before finishing up at Lake Windermere.* | *We finished up in a Chinese restaurant in Soho.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, wind up**

2 **finish up**

BrE informal to get into a particular state or situation as the result of what you have done, especially without planning or expecting it: *One of the guys tried to bribe a police officer and finished up in jail.*

+ **as** *Soane came from a poor family, but he finished up as one of Britain's greatest architects.*

+ **with** *If you go out in this freezing weather, you'll probably finish up with pneumonia.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, wind up**

3 **finish up doing** *sth*

informal, especially BrE to do something at the end of an event or process, especially without planning or expecting it: *I often start off thinking of one story, and finish up writing something completely different.* | *If you move to another house, you could finish up paying an even higher rent.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, wind up**

4 **finish up** *sth* | **finish** *sth* **up**

to eat or drink all of what you are eating or drinking: *Come on! Finish up your drinks. We have to go now.*

5 **finish** *sth* **up** | **finish up** *sth* | **finish up**

AmE to complete the final part of something: *Moore is finishing up his first season with the 49ers.* | *The report is due on Wednesday, but I think we might finish it up by Sunday night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **complete, wrap up, finish off** *especially BrE*

finish up with

finish up with *sth*

especially BrE to end an activity, event etc by having or doing a particular thing: *Most of us finished up with the orange and almond dessert.* | *The rowing season finishes up with Henley Royal Regatta.*

finish with

1 **be/have finished with** *sth*

to have stopped using or needing something: *Have you finished with the newspaper yet?* | *I usually give my old clothes away when I'm finished with them.*

2 **be/have finished with** *sb*

to have finished talking to someone, or dealing with them, especially when you are angry with them or want to punish them: *Don't go, Anna. I haven't finished with you*

yet. | "When I'm finished with you," Morrissey said, "you'll be lucky if you're still alive."

3 **finish with** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

informal to end a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *Did you know that Mike's finished with Theresa? | There were just too many arguments, so in the end I finished with him.*

FINK

finked, finked, finking

fink on

fink on *sb*

AmE informal to tell the police or someone in authority that someone else has done something wrong: *Rita finked on me for taking long lunches at work. | The school's anti-vandalism policy encourages kids to fink on their friends.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell on** *informal*, **tattle on** *AmE informal*

FIRE

fired, fired, firing

fire away

fire away!

spoken informal used to tell someone that you are ready for them to begin asking you questions or speaking about something: *"Do you mind if I ask you something, Woody?" "Fire away."*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot!** *spoken informal*

fire back

fire back

to quickly and angrily answer a question or remark

+ at *The Japanese government has fired back at its critics.*

fire off

1 **fire off** *sth* **fire** *sth* **off**

to fire a bullet, bomb etc into the air: *The terrorists fired off several shots into the air.*

fire off a gun *The Mexicans have a tradition of firing off guns to welcome in the new year.*

2 **fire off** *sth* **fire** *sth* **off**

to quickly write and send a letter or message to someone, especially an angry one protesting about something: *I fired off another furious e-mail to the editor. | The United States fired off a harshly worded protest, calling for international action.*

fire up

1 **fire up** *sb* **fire** *sb* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone become very excited, interested, or angry: *By the time we went into the contest we were all fired up with enthusiasm. | Uncle George always had terrific stories that fired up our imagination. | It was alarming the way she got so fired up about small things.*

2 **fire up** *sth* **fire** *sth* **up**

informal, especially AmE to make something start to burn, for example a cigarette or something you are going to cook on: *Millions of Americans are preparing to fire up their barbecues on Labor Day weekend*

* SIMILAR TO: **light up**

3 **fire up** *sth* **fire** *sth* **up**

informal, especially AmE to make an engine, computer etc start to work: *Mercer fires up the 52 horsepower engine and lifts off from the main runway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start up**

FIRM

firmed, firmed, firming

firm up

1 **firm up** *sth* **firm** *sth* **up**

to make the details of arrangements, ideas etc more definite and exact: *I'll call you nearer the time to firm things up. | At the meeting Albright firmed up dates for the trip to Mexico.*

2 **firm up** *sth* **firm** *sth* **up**

if you firm up part of your body, you make the muscles stronger and get rid of fat by exercising: *These exercises are good for firming up your stomach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tone up**

3 **firm up** *sth* **firm** *sth* **up**

to make your position of power stronger or safer: *The party was keen to firm up its support before the coming election. | Moscow is intent on firming up its defences along the Chinese border.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consolidate** *formal*

FISH

fished, fished, fishing

fish for

fish for *sth* NOT PASSIVE, USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to try to get something from someone, especially information or praise, often by asking them for it in an indirect way: *Jed was interested in my sister, Anna, and he was fishing for*

F

information about her habits and boyfriends. | *It was election time again, and politicians were touring the country fishing for support.*

fish for compliments (=try to get someone to say something nice about you) *I'm not fishing for compliments, but do you think this dress suits me?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **angle for**

fish out

1 **fish out** *sth/sb* | **fish** *sth/sb* **out**

informal to pull something or someone out of water: *I couldn't swim so Dad had to jump in and fish me out.*

+ of *Police fished her body out of the East River a week later.*

2 **fish out** *sth* | **fish** *sth* **out**

informal to take something out of a bag, pocket etc after searching for it with your hand: *Phil put his hand in his pocket and fished out a few coins.*

FIT

fitted, fitted, fitting BrE
fit, fit, fitting AmE

F

fit in

1 **fit in** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be happy with a group of people because they accept you easily, and because you have the same interests and attitudes: *As soon as we moved to this area, we felt that we fitted in.*

+ with *Ben just doesn't seem to fit in with the other children at school.*

2 **fit in** *sth* | **fit** *sb/sth* **in**

to succeed in finding time to do something or see someone, especially when you have a lot of other things to do: *We'll be in Paris for a couple of days, so we should be able to fit in a trip to Versailles.* | *The doctor said that he can fit me in at 4.30.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squeeze in, slot in**

3 **fit in**

to arrange what you do in a way that is convenient for another person or group that you have to consider: *In a large family like ours, everyone has to learn to fit in.*

+ with *What's best for you? I'll try and fit in with your schedule.*

4 **fit in**

BrE if activities or arrangements fit in, they can take place between other arrangements without causing any problems

fit in well/beautifully/neatly etc *If we leave London by four o'clock, we can be home in time for the cinema – it'll all fit in quite well.*

+ with *Julie works as a school nurse, which fits in beautifully with running a home and a family.* | *The dates you've suggested fit in neatly with my own plans.*

5 **fit in** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to look suitable or nice in a particular place, or with other things: *The new houses that they're building in the village really don't fit in.*

+ with *I'm looking for a sofa that will fit in with the room's general style.*

6 **where/how** *sb* **fits in**

used to ask or describe what part someone has in a plan or situation: *It sounds like a great idea, but how do I fit in?* | *We'll need someone who speaks Russian, and that's where Sam fits in.*

fit in with

1 **fit in with** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if something fits in with a particular system, idea, or method, it is suitable for it or works successfully with it: *Julius decided to buy himself a more expensive car that would fit in with his lifestyle.* | *These ideas fit in well with traditional views of language learning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **match**

2 **fit in with** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if something fits in with a particular idea, statement etc, it says the same thing or has the same effect: *Sonny's behaviour did not fit in with what I knew of him.* | *Dr Oliver's version of events did not fit in with the facts as stated in the police report.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fit with, match**

fit into

1 **fit into** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

to become a suitable part of a plan, situation, or system: *Dubcek's policies did not fit easily into the Marxist system.*

where/how sth fits into sth (=used to ask or describe what part someone or something has in a plan, situation etc) *We need to consider how this software will fit into our training programme.*

2 **fit into** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

to be the right kind of person to be in a particular group or situation and feel happy in it: *Vanessa wasn't sure that she would find it easy to fit into a police officer's life.* | *The people living opposite us didn't seem to fit into our small community at all.*

3 **fit into** *sth*

if something or someone fits into a type or group, it seems reasonable to include them in that type or group

fit into a category/type/pattern etc *His problems don't seem to fit into any of the usual categories.* | *George didn't fit into any recognizable social type.*

fit out

fit out *sb/sth* **fit** *sb/sth* **out**

especially BrE to provide someone or something with equipment, furniture, clothes etc: *The money we raise will be used for fitting out a new laboratory.* | *The apartments were very comfortably fitted out in contemporary style.*

+ with *As soon as we arrived we were fitted out with uniforms.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kit out** *BrE*

fit up

1 **fit up** *sb/sth* **fit** *sb/sth* **up**

especially BrE to provide someone or something with the equipment, furniture, clothes etc they need: *Anne and John spent their holiday fitting up their first home.*

+ with *Trentham asked the coach to fit him up with a pair of boxing gloves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit out** *especially BrE*, **kit out** *BrE*

2 **fit up** *sb* **fit** *sb* **up**

BrE informal to deliberately make someone seem guilty of a crime, although they are not: *It was obvious that Cooper and Murphy had been fitted up and were innocent.*

fit sb up for sth *The police tried to fit me up for burglary.*

* SIMILAR TO: **frame**

fit with

fit with *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if something fits with a particular idea, statement etc, it says the same thing or has the same effect or purpose: *The research shows that girls study harder than boys, and this certainly fits with our experience.* | *BMW's acquisition of Rover fits with the company's aim of widening its range of models.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit in with, match**

FIX

fixed, fixed, fixing

fix on

fix on *sth/sb*

to decide to choose a particular thing or person, especially after thinking about it carefully: *They've finally fixed on October 16th for their wedding.* | *We talked about the money for a long time before we fixed on a figure.*

* SIMILAR TO: **decide on, settle on**

fix up

1 **fix up** *sth* **fix** *sth* **up**

especially BrE to arrange something such as a meeting, date, deal etc: *Can we fix up a time when we can meet?* | *Racing driver Oliver Oakes has fixed up a sponsorship deal with Shell.*

get sth fixed up *Don't worry about the insurance – I'll get it fixed up.*

fix up to do sth *BrE* *I've already fixed up to go on holiday that week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arrange**

2 **fix up** *sb* **fix** *sb* **up**

to provide someone with something that they need, or arrange for them to have or do something: *If you need anything, come and see me. I'll fix you up.*

+ with *When he came out of prison, they fixed him up with a job in a factory.*

be/get fixed up *Thanks, but I'm already fixed up with somewhere to stay.*

get sb fixed up *If you want to write professionally, we'll need to get you fixed up with an agent.*

3 **fix** *sth* **up** **fix up** *sth*

to work on something such as a building, room etc, in order to repair it, improve it, or make it suitable for something: *We bought an old house in Edinburgh, and spent months trying to fix it up and make it reasonably comfortable.*

+ for *We'd planned a lot of improvements, and Jack was fixing a room up for the baby.*

+ as *My son fixed up our garage as a recording studio.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do up** *informal*

4 **fix** *sb* **up** **fix up** *sb*

informal to provide a suitable partner for someone to meet in a romantic way or have a romantic relationship with: *Janie said that she could fix me up for the evening.*

+ with *I've been trying to fix my sister up with some nice guy for years.*

5 **fix up** *sth* **fix** *sth* **up**

to make something quickly using whatever is available, because you suddenly need it: *We fixed up a table, using some old boxes.* | *I'm sure I can fix up some sort of meal.*

6 **fix yourself up**

AmE to make yourself look attractive, especially before a special event: *Zoe spent two hours fixing herself up for the Christmas party.* | *I had just enough time to go home after work and fix myself up before meeting Bill for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gussy yourself up** *AmE old-fashioned*, **doll yourself up** *informal*

F

fix with

fix *sb* **with a look/stare/gaze etc**

to look at someone very directly and for a long time, especially in an angry way: *Alison paused and fixed Guido with an irritated look.* | *As soon as I came in, my mother fixed me with an angry stare.*

FIZZLE

fizzled, fizzled, fizzling

fizzle out

fizzle out

informal to gradually become less strong, less successful, or less serious, and then end or disappear, often in a disappointing way: *The rebellion fizzled out after a couple of weeks.* | *She's still very young, so I'm hoping that their romance will eventually fizzle out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **peter out**

FLAG

F

flagged, flagged, flagging

flag down

flag down *sth* **flag** *sth* **down**

to make a vehicle stop by waving at its driver: *I went outside and flagged down a taxi.* | *The police were flagging down motorists and questioning them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wave down**

flag up

flag up *sth*

BrE to attract people's attention to a particular idea, subject etc, or inform them about it: *The conference was an opportunity to flag up Scottish concerns across the European Parliamentary scene.*

FLAIL

flailed, flailed, flailing

flail around ALSO flail about *BrE*

flail around/about

to wave your arms and legs around in an uncontrolled way: *The child was flailing about in the water, coughing and shouting.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **thrash about/around**

FLAKE

flaked, flaked, flaking

flake off

flake off **flake off** *sth*

to break away from a surface in small, very thin pieces – use this especially about old paint or dry skin: *The walls were damp, and some of the white paint was flaking off.* | *There were ugly patches of red where the skin had flaked off her sunburned shoulders.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **peel off**

flake out

1 **flake out**

BrE informal to suddenly fall asleep because you are very tired: *He was so exhausted that he just flaked out on the sofa.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crash out** *spoken informal*, **zonk out** *informal, especially AmE*

2 **be flaked out**

BrE informal to be extremely tired: *I'm flaked out now. Could we talk about this in the morning?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be shattered, be exhausted**

3 **flake out**

AmE informal to forget to do something that you promised to do: *Paula flaked out and didn't get the tickets for the play tonight.*

+ on *Kathy kind of flaked out on us today.*

FLARE

flared, flared, flaring

flare off

flare off *sth*

technical to burn the waste gas that is produced when oil is pumped up from below the ground: *The Gulf states flare off gas equivalent to 92 million tonnes of oil every year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **burn off**

flare out

flare out

AmE literary to say something suddenly in an angry way

+ at *Rothchild flared out at Julia when she questioned him.*

flare up

1 **flare up**

if something such as violence, a serious argument, or anger flares up, it suddenly starts or suddenly becomes very serious: *Violence has flared up again in the city, and ten people were*

killed in one day. | *If the conflict flares up, NATO will respond.* | *Anger flared up inside her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **erupt** *formal*

flare-up N [C]
when violence, an argument, or anger suddenly starts or becomes very serious: *There was an immediate flare-up of trouble in the north and west of the region.* | *a flare-up between the US Congress and the President*

2 **flare up**

to suddenly become very angry with someone about something they have said or done: *Helen flared up. "Look what you've done!" she shouted.* | *Frank couldn't say anything nowadays without her flaring up at him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blow up**

3 **flare up**

if an illness, pain etc that you have had before flares up, you get it again or it becomes worse: *You should take some pills on holiday, in case the infection flares up again.* | *The pain in my legs tends to flare up when the weather's damp.*

flare-up N [C]
when an illness, pain etc that you had before suddenly comes back or becomes worse: *A flare-up of her arthritis had kept her in bed.*

4 **flare up**

to suddenly begin to burn brightly, or more brightly than before, especially for a short time: *Daniel lit a match and it flared up in the dark.* | *I put some more wood on the fire, and watched the flames flare up.*

FLASH

flashed, flashed, flashing

flash around ALSO flash about *BrE*

1 **flash your money around/about**

to spend a lot of money in a way that is very noticeable, because you want other people to know that you have a lot and admire you: *Eddie's always enjoyed flashing his money around – expensive cars, clothes, that sort of thing.*

2 **flash** *sth* **around/about**

to show people that you have something valuable, because you are very proud of it and want them to admire it: *If you have jewellery with you don't go flashing it around – there are a lot of thieves in this part of town.*

flash back to

flash back to *sth/sb*

if your mind or thoughts flash back to a time, event, or person in your past, you suddenly think of them or remember them: *Isabel's thoughts flashed back to Luke and the night they'd spent in San Remo.* | *His mind flashed back forty years to what his father had once told him.*

flashback N [C]
when you suddenly have a clear picture in your mind of something that happened to you in the past, often something unpleasant
+ to *Rachel, 25, still has vivid flashbacks to the day when she was attacked.*

flashback N [C,U]
a scene in a film, play, or book, which shows or describes something that happened in the past, or the method of telling a story in this way: *In a series of flashbacks we follow the sisters through their teenage years.*
in flashback *In 'The English Patient', a lot of the story is told in flashback.*

flash on

flash on *sth*

AmE to suddenly remember something or have a new idea: *When Maurice starts talking about caribou, I immediately flash on Alaska.* | *It was then that I flashed on the idea of spending Easter in Hawaii.*

F

flash out

flash out *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if someone's eyes or looks flash out a feeling or message, they suddenly express it: *Glover's eyes flashed out the clear message that he didn't believe what she had said.*

FLATTEN

flattened, flattened, flattening

flatten out

1 **flatten out** | **flatten out** *sth* | **flatten** *sth* **out**

to become flat or flatter, or to make something become flat or flatter: *East of Richmond, the countryside begins to flatten out.* | *I opened the map and flattened it out in front of me.*

2 **flatten out**

if the rate or number of something flattens out, it stops increasing and stays at the same level: *Car sales are flattening out, earlier than expected this year.* | *House prices have started to flatten out after years of steady growth.*

* SIMILAR TO: **level off/out**

FLESH
fleshed, fleshed, fleshing

flesh out

flesh out *sth* | **flesh** *sth* **out**

to add more details to a piece of writing, a speech, or a piece of music, in order to make it more interesting or to give more information: *Scott fleshes out the original story with details from his own imagination.* | *The chairman's report will flesh out the basic facts about sales and profits.* | *Drum and bass rhythms flesh out the melodies.*

FLICK
flicked, flicked, flicking

flick off

flick off *sth* | **flick** *sth* **off**

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc stop working by pressing a switch: *Flicking off the downstairs lights, she went upstairs.* | *Gus moved over to the stereo and flicked it off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

● OPPOSITE: **flick on**

flick on

flick on *sth* | **flick** *sth* **on**

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc start working by pressing a switch: *She opened the door and flicked on the light.* | *I flicked on the TV and took a can of lager from the fridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch on, turn on**

● OPPOSITE: **flick off**

flick through

flick through *sth*

to quickly look at the pages of a book, magazine etc, or at a pile of papers, photographs etc, in order to see what is in them, or to find something you are looking for: *Jilly was lying on the sofa, flicking through a magazine.* | *Lessing flicked through the pile of papers on his desk, but the one he needed wasn't there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flip through, leaf through**

FLINCH
flinched, flinched, flinching

flinch from

flinch from *sth* USUALLY NEGATIVE

to avoid doing something because you do not like it or are afraid of it: *He was a brave man and a great leader who never flinched from his duty.*

flinch from doing sth *Ruth knew that she must not flinch from telling him the truth.*

FLING
flung, flung, flinging

fling into

fling yourself into *sth*

to suddenly begin to take part in an activity with a lot of determination or enthusiasm, often because something else you were involved in was not successful: *When the war ended, Carlos flung himself into the campaign for free elections.* | *Determined to put all thought of marriage out of her mind for ever, she flung herself into her work, staying up late into the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw yourself into**

fling off

fling off *sth* | **fling** *sth* **off**

to quickly remove a piece of clothing that you were wearing or a cover that was over you: *Dan flung his coat off and came through into the kitchen.* | *Flinging off the bedcovers, she got up and opened the window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw off**

FLIP
flipped, flipped, flipping

flip for

flip for *sb*

AmE to suddenly begin to like someone very much: *Ben has really flipped for Laura, hasn't he?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall for**

flip off

1 **flip off** *sth* | **flip** *sth* **off**

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc stop working by pressing a switch: *I reached up and flipped off the light.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick off, switch off, turn off**

2 **flip** *sb* **off** | **flip off** *sb*

AmE to make a rude sign at someone by raising your middle finger and keeping your other fingers curled down: *The guy in the red Honda wouldn't let me in, so I flipped him off.*

flip on

flip on *sth* | **flip** *sth* **on**

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc start working by pressing a switch: *She started the engine and flipped on the radio.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick on, switch on, turn on**

F

flip out

flip out

AmE informal to become very excited, very angry, or completely crazy: *My boyfriend flipped out when he saw me with another guy.* | *Poor Joanie, she's finally flipped out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go crazy, lose it** *spoken*

flip over

1 **flip over** | **flip over** *sth* | **flip** *sth* **over**

to quickly turn over, or to make something do this: *The car went out of control and flipped over onto its roof.* | *"Breakfast anyone?" Leonora said, flipping the eggs over in the pan.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

2 **flip over** *sth* | **flip over**

to quickly change to another channel on a television

+ to *It is OK if I flip over to the news?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch over** *BrE*, **turn over** *BrE*

flip through

flip through *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to quickly look at the pages of a book, magazine etc, or at a pile of papers, photographs etc, in order to see what is in them, or to find something you are looking for: *Alex was standing by the telephone flipping through his address book.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **flick through, leaf through**

FLIRT

flirted, flirted, flirting

flirt with

1 **flirt with** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to consider doing something, or to be interested in something, but only for a short time and not very seriously: *In the '30s Crowley flirted briefly with fascism.*

flirt with the idea of *One or two of them were flirting with the idea of joining a rock band.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **toy with**

2 **flirt with danger/disaster/death etc**

to do something that involves taking unnecessary risks, especially because you find it exciting: *Formula One driver Jim Clark knew he was flirting with death in every race.* | *Flirting with danger had offered an excitement that was better than anything Caroline had ever experienced before.*

FLOAT

floated, floated, floating

float around
ALSO **float about** *BrE*

1 **be floating around/about**

if an idea or story is floating around, a lot of different people are talking about it and passing it on to other people: *There are a lot of rumours floating about, but nobody really knows what's going to happen.* | *I'm quite worried about some of the strange ideas that are floating around these days.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go around, circulate** *formal*

2 **be floating around/about (** *sth* **)**

spoken if you say that something is floating around, you mean that you know it is somewhere near you even though you are not sure exactly where: *That book is definitely floating around the house somewhere.* | *Have you seen my glasses floating about anywhere?*

FLOOD

flooded, flooded, flooding

flood back

sth **comes flooding back**

if something comes flooding back, you suddenly remember it, usually because something else reminds you of it: *As soon as she was alone, all her fears came flooding back.*

it all comes flooding back *Every time I hear that song, it all comes flooding back.*

flood in/into

flood in | **flood into** *sth*

to arrive or enter somewhere in very large numbers: *Letters of thanks have been flooding in from viewers.* | *Large numbers of refugees flooded into Macedonia.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pour in/into**

flood out

1 **be flooded out**

to be forced to leave your home because of floods. A flood is a large area of water, which moves over an area that is usually dry, often causing damage. *The river burst its banks, and hundreds of Londoners were flooded out after the worst rain for twenty years.*

2 **flood out**

to leave a place in very large numbers

+ of *About 200,000 people were reported to be flooding out of the country.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pour out**

F

flood with

1 **flood** *sth* **with** *sth*

to send large numbers of letters, complaints etc to an organization, especially more than the people there can deal with: *Campaigners flooded the Governor's office with angry letters of protest.*

be flooded with calls/complaints/requests etc (=receive a large number of telephone calls etc) *The telephone lines were flooded with calls from people wanting to help.*

2 **flood** *sth* **with** *sth*

to provide such large amounts of something in a place that it causes a problem: *A plot to flood Britain with the drug ecstasy has been smashed by the police. | Plans to recruit more foreign workers could flood the country with cheap labor.*

flood the market (=make so much of something available that its price drops) *Foreign suppliers are accused of flooding the market with cheap CDs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swamp**

F

FLOP

flopped, flopped, flopping

flop down

flop down

to suddenly sit or lie down somewhere, especially because you are tired

+ in/on/onto etc *"I'm exhausted," said Max, flopping down in a battered armchair. | She got off her bike and flopped down on the grass.*

FLOUNDER

floundered, floundered, floundering

flounder around ALSO flounder about *BrE*

1 **flounder around/about**

to move unsteadily and with difficulty, especially in water, mud etc: *Men were floundering about in the water, splashing and yelling.*

2 **flounder around/about**

to try hard to think of what to say or what to do, but with difficulty: *I floundered around, trying to think of the right word.*

FLOW

flowed, flowed, flowing

flow from

flow from *sth*

to be the result of a particular situation, event, plan etc, especially a good result: *Patients are already enjoying the extra benefits flowing from this new technology. | A number of policy changes will flow from the lessons we have learnt.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stem from**

flow over

flow over *sb*

if a feeling flows over you, you suddenly feel it strongly: *A wave of sadness flowed over her.*

let sth flow over you (=allow yourself to experience the beauty of something) *He closed his eyes and let the music flow over him.*

FLUFF

fluffed, fluffed, fluffing

fluff out/up

fluff out/up *sth* | **fluff** *sth* **out/up**

if you fluff out something soft such as hair or feathers, or something containing feathers, you brush or shake it in order to make it appear larger, feel softer etc: *The barn was full of chickens fluffing out their feathers against the cold. | Marge fluffed up the pillow behind her and leaned back. | Rod was doing her hair for her, fluffing it out like a real hairdresser.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **plump out**

FLUNK

flunked, flunked, flunking

flunk out

flunk out

especially AmE to be forced to leave school or college because your work is not good enough: *If Jacob doesn't study more, he's going to flunk out for sure.*

+ of *Mulroney flunked out of law school at 25.*

FLUSH

flushed, flushed, flushing

flush out

1 **flush** *sb/sth* **out** | **flush out** *sb/sth*

to force a person or an animal to come out of the place where they are hiding: *Armed police flushed the rebels out without firing a shot.*

+ from *The dogs are sent in to flush out the fox from its den.*

2 **flush out** *sth* | **flush** *sth* **out**

to clean something thoroughly by forcing a large amount of water or other liquid

through it: *You need to drink at least eight glasses of water a day to flush out your system.* | *The radiators had to be taken outside and flushed out with a hose.*

FLY

flew, flown, flying

fly around
ALSO **fly about** *BrE*

fly around/about | **fly around/about** *sth*

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if rumours, stories, or accusations etc are flying around, people are talking about them a lot in an excited way. Rumours are stories which are often not true about what might happen or might have happened: *Rumours were flying around Manchester that the band was about to split up.* | *There were a lot of accusations flying around at the time about who was to blame for the accident.*

fly at

fly at *sb*

to suddenly rush towards someone because you are very angry with them: *The old man flew at her in a rage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

fly by

fly by

if time flies by, it passes very quickly: *They started talking about old times, and the evening just flew by.* | *The days seemed to fly by and soon it was time to think about going back home.*

fly in

1 **fly in**

to arrive somewhere by plane

+ from *Her sister flew in from New York to be at the wedding.*

2 **fly** *sth/sb* **in**

to bring something or someone to a place by plane: *An ambassador from Finland was flown in to help settle the dispute between the two countries.* | *Cocaine is flown in from across the border.*

fly into

fly into a rage/temper/panic

to suddenly become extremely angry or frightened: *Whenever his girlfriend looked at other men, Joe would fly into a rage.* | *Major Sanderson flew into a temper when he heard that the soldiers had disobeyed his orders.*

fly out

1 **fly out**

to go somewhere by plane: *We didn't fly out until 11:30 last night.*

+ to *Bruce has been flying out to Colorado every week on business.*

2 **fly** *sb/sth* **out**

to send something or someone to another place by plane: *As soon as the trouble began, all the women and children were flown out.*

FOB

fobbed, fobbed, fobbing

fob off

1 **fob off** *sb* | **fob** *sb* **off**

BrE to stop someone complaining or asking questions by giving them explanations, excuses etc that are not true: *Come on, tell me the truth. I'm not going to be so easily fobbed off this time.*

fob sb off with sth *Alan tried to fob her off with some story about losing her telephone number.*

F

2 **fob off** *sb* | **fob** *sb* **off**

BrE to make someone accept something that is not as good as what they really want

fob sb off with sth *Don't let them fob you off with some cheap imitation.* | *People are much more selective about what they watch these days, and they don't want to be fobbed off with any old rubbish.*

fob off on/onto

fob *sth* **off on/onto** *sb*

fob off *sth* **on/onto** *sb*

BrE to persuade someone to do or have something that you do not want to do or have yourself, especially by deceiving them in some way: *She always tries to fob the worst jobs off onto me.*

FOCUS

focused, focused, focusing
focussed, focussed, focussing BrE

focus on/upon

● **Focus upon** is more formal than **focus on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 **focus on/upon** *sth/sb* | **focus** *sth* **on/upon**

to give a lot of attention to a particular thing or person instead of others: *People have tended to focus on Marilyn's private life, rather than on her films.* | *At that time all her energy was focused on her career.*

focus attention on/upon sth/sb *At the conference, attention will be focussed on island communities in the developing world.*

focus on doing sth *Recent research has focussed on studying the genetic background to the disease.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **concentrate on**

2 **focus on/upon** *sth*

to move the lens on a camera, telescope etc so you can see something clearly with it. The lens is the part of the camera etc that is made of glass, which light travels through: *The most important rule when taking portraits is to focus on the subject's eyes.*

FOG

be fogged in

be fogged in

AmE if a place or the people there are fogged in, the place is surrounded by low clouds so that it is impossible to see much or travel around: *"We're completely fogged in," said Lisa Howard, a spokeswoman for O'Haire Airport.*

fog up

fog up | **fog up** *sth* | **fog** *sth* **up**

if glass fogs up, or something fogs it up, very small drops of water cover it so that it is difficult to see through it: *My windshield fogged up, making it nearly impossible to see the road.* | *The cold, wet air fogged up her glasses as soon as she stepped outside.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mist up, steam up**

FOIST

foisted, foisted, foisting

foist (off) on/upon

● **Foist upon** is more formal than **foist on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 **foist** *sth* **(off) on/upon** *sb*

to force someone to accept or deal with something that they do not want: *I just wish he wouldn't keep trying to foist his opinions on other people.* | *Ryan was always foisting his chores off on his younger sister.*

2 **foist** *sb* **(off) on/upon** *sb*

to force someone to have to deal with or look after another person – often used humorously: *Karen's always trying to foist her children off on us.*

F

FOLD

folded, folded, folding

fold away

1 **fold** *sth* **away** | **fold away** *sth*

to fold something into a small, neat, and usually flat shape, so that you can store it somewhere: *Can you fold away the chairs and put them in the kitchen cupboard?* | *She took her clothes out of the drier and began folding them away.*

2 **fold away**

if furniture or equipment folds away, it can be folded and made smaller, so that you can store it easily when it is not being used: *The good thing about this bed is that it folds away.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fold up**

fold-away ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
a fold-away bed, table etc can be folded into a small shape so that it can be stored easily

fold in/into

fold in *sth* | **fold** *sth* **in**

fold *sth* **into** *sth*

to gently mix a food into a mixture when you are cooking: *Beat the egg whites and fold them into the batter just before baking.* | *Make sure that you fold in the cream before adding the fruit.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mix in/into**

fold up

1 **fold up** *sth* | **fold** *sth* **up**

to fold something into a small, neat, and usually flat shape, so that you can store it somewhere: *I can never remember how to fold up the tent so that it fits into the bag.* | *She reached for the map and folded it up neatly.*

● OPPOSITE: **unfold**

2 **fold up**

if something such as furniture or equipment folds up, it can be folded and made smaller, so that you can store it easily when it is not being used: *The table folds up for easy storage when you're not using it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fold away**

fold-up ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
a fold-up bed, table etc can be folded into a small shape so that it can be stored easily: *Hattie kept a fold-up bed in the spare room.*

3 **fold up**

if a business folds up, it closes permanently because it has not been successful: *Experts have predicted that one-third of East Germany's 8,000 businesses could fold up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fold, go bust**

FOLLOW

followed, followed, following

follow on

1 **follow on**

to happen after or as a result of something else – used to say that two events or actions are connected with each other

+ from *The discussion groups are intended to follow on from this morning's lecture.*

following on from sth *Following on from the success of its Boboli pizzas, JS has introduced a new range of small pizzas called Bobolini.*

follow-on N [SINGULAR]
especially BrE something that happens after or as the result of something else: *The new coursebook is a follow-on of an earlier one.*

2 **follow on**

BrE to go somewhere at a later time than someone else, especially in order to meet them there: *The two climbers set off alone – the rest of the expedition were expected to follow on later.*

follow out

follow out *sth* **follow** *sth* **out**

if you follow out someone's instructions, orders etc, you do exactly what they have told you to do: *Soldiers are expected to follow out their orders without question.* | *Dennis seems unable to follow out even the simplest of instructions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **carry out, obey**

follow through

1 **follow** *sth* **through** **follow through** *sth*
follow through

to do what needs to be done in order to make something happen successfully in the way that you want, or in the way that you have planned: *Peter has a lot of great ideas, but he never seems to follow them through.* | *It had always been her dream to become a dancer. If only she had the courage to follow it through!*

+ with *Following through with his plan, MacArhur sought to take over Seoul by September 25th.*

2 **follow** *sth* **through** **follow through** *sth*

if you follow through an idea, suggestion etc you think about or discuss all the things that are connected with it and what effects it is likely to have: *Some people say that animals have no rights. If you follow this idea through to its logical conclusion, we can be as cruel as we like, without caring about the suffering we cause.*

3 **follow through**

to continue moving your arm or foot after you have hit, kicked, or thrown the ball in golf, tennis, football etc, in order to complete the movement: *Jasper has a strong swing, but he needs to follow through more consistently after he's hit the ball.*

follow through on

1 **follow through on** *sth*

especially AmE to do what you have promised, planned, threatened etc to do

follow through on a promise/plan/threat etc *Officials waited to see whether the terrorists would follow through on their promise to release the hostages.* | *It seemed unlikely that Iraq would start further conflict by following through on threats to attack a US spy plane.*

2 **follow through on** *sth*

especially AmE to deal with something such as instructions or complaints after you have received them: *The report found that managers rarely followed through on complaints from women in the company.* | *Some of the patients have behaviour problems that make it difficult for them to follow through on instructions from others.*

F

follow up

1 **follow up** *sth* **follow** *sth* **up**

to find out more information about something, and take action if necessary: *The police received a tip about the robbery, but they never followed it up.*

+ on *Public health officials are following up on numerous health complaints from workers at the factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **investigate**

2 **follow up** *sth* **follow** *sth* **up**

to do something soon after you have done something else, especially in order to make sure it is successful: *The treatment is usually followed up by a series of check-ups at the local hospital.*

+ with *The band is planning to follow up their new record with a three-month tour of the US.*

follow-up N [C,U]
something that is done after something else, in order to develop it further or to make sure that it is successful: *The Pretoria talks were a follow-up to the first meeting between the government and the ANC.*

follow-up ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
follow-up meetings, visits, activities etc are done after something else, in order to develop it further or make sure that it is

successful: *They decided to have a follow-up meeting to find out how much progress had been made.*

FOOL

fooled, fooled, fooling

fool around
ALSO **fool about** *BrE*

1 **fool around/about**

to behave in a silly way for fun: *We used to fool around a lot in class. | a picture of the royal couple fooling around on the ski slopes | Stop fooling about, will you! I'm trying to work!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **muck around/about** *BrE informal*

2 **fool around/about**

to use something in a careless way that is often dangerous

+ **with** *The fire was started by some children who were fooling about with matches.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **play, mess around/about** *informal*

F

3 **fool around/about**

to have a short sexual relationship with someone else, when you already have a boyfriend or girlfriend, or you are already married – used to show disapproval

+ **with** *He found she'd been fooling around with another man, so he shot her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **play around/about**

4 **fool around** | **fool around** *sth*

AmE informal to go around a place, especially in a car, on a bicycle etc: *There was a time when Gary Cooper fooled around town in a green Bentley Corniche. | She fools around on a bicycle in her jeans.*

5 **fool around**

AmE informal to waste time doing unnecessary things, or do something much too slowly, especially when you should be doing something else: *We have to go to Cost Co by five and he's just fooling around!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*, **faff about/around** *BrE informal*

fool with

1 **fool with** *sth*

AmE informal to touch, play with, or keep changing something, especially in a way that is not very sensible: *Don't fool with matches. You'll burn the house down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **play with**

2 **fool with** *sth*

AmE informal to be or become involved in something, especially when it is not sensible to do this because it might cause problems: *I don't think Guinnett wants to fool with this. It's bordering on racism.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess with** *informal*

FOOTLE

footled, footled, footling

footle about/around

footle about/around

BrE old-fashioned informal to waste time doing unimportant things, especially when you should be doing something else: *He's been footling around in the garage all morning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*

FORCE

forced, forced, forcing

force back

force back *sth* | **force** *sth* **back**

especially BrE to try hard not to show your feelings, especially when you are upset

force back your tears *Forcing back her tears, she waved goodbye from the taxi window.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **choke back, fight back, hold back**

force down

1 **force down** *sth* | **force** *sth* **down**

to make yourself eat or drink something with difficulty, especially because you do not like it, or because you are ill or upset: *David tried to force down a little soup, hoping it would make him feel better. | I didn't want to be rude, so I forced down the raw fish and smiled at my hosts.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **choke down**

2 **force down** *sth* | **force** *sth* **down**

to make a plane have to land, especially by threatening to attack it or because there is some kind of problem: *In 1995, American officials forced down about 20 planes carrying illegal drugs into the US. | The airliner was forced down over the Andes, after both its engines failed.*

force on/upon

● **Force upon** is more formal than **force on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **force** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to make someone accept something even though they do not want it: *I get really annoyed when Nancy tries to force her religion on everyone else. | She kept forcing*

drinks on him all evening, and he wondered what she wanted from him. | People feel that the reforms have been forced upon them by the West.

2 **force yourself on/upon** *sb*

to make someone let you stay with them or go somewhere with them, when they do not really want you to: *I'm sorry, I didn't mean to force myself on you the other evening. | Marcus practically forced himself on us when we mentioned we were going out after work.*

3 **force yourself on/upon** *sb*

if a man forces himself on a woman, he makes her have sex with him, especially by using violence: *He tried to force himself on her, but ran away when she fought back. | Klingman swears that he has never forced himself on any woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rape**

FORGE

forged, forged, forging

forge ahead

1 **forge ahead**

to make a lot of progress and become more and more successful: *In France the nuclear industry continues to forge ahead.*

+ with *The Russian leader said he will forge ahead with the economic reforms.*

2 **forge ahead**

to keep moving forward in a strong and powerful way: *The others forged ahead to the top of the hill. | I had to stop and rest, but Peggy forged ahead. | The USS Nimmitz was forging ahead at about twenty knots.*

FORK

forked, forked, forking

fork out

fork out *sth*

informal to spend a lot of money on something, especially when you do not want to: *We had to fork out $900 to fix our car. | My father refused to fork out any more money so that I could go to university.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shell out** *informal*, **cough up** *informal*

fork over

fork *sth* **over** | **fork over** *sth*

AmE informal to give someone something, especially money, even though you do not want to: *Taxpayers have forked over $1.1 billion in interest payments. | Are you hiding the last cookie? Fork it over!*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

FORM

formed, formed, forming

form up

form up | **for up** *sb/sth* | **form** *sb/sth* **up**

especially BrE if a group of people or things form up or someone forms them up, they move into a particular position, especially in lines: *We all had to form up in rows on the parade ground. | The teacher made us form up into a semi-circle. | Captain Haleigh formed up a line of tanks on either side of the battlefield.*

* SIMILAR TO: **form**

FOUL

fouled, fouled, fouling

foul out

1 **foul out**

AmE to make more than five mistakes in a game of basketball, by touching or holding another player in a way that is not allowed, with the result that you are not allowed to play in that game: *After having had only three players foul out all year, Tech finished its final game with four players disqualified.*

2 **foul out**

AmE if you foul out in the game of baseball, you hit the ball outside the playing area and it is caught by a player on the other team, so that your turn at hitting the ball is over: *Reid fouled out, leaving it to Weber to score the winning run.*

foul up

1 **foul up** *sth* | **foul** *sth* **up** | **foul up**

informal to do something badly or fail at something, especially by making careless mistakes: *I really fouled up the final exam – there's no way I'll pass the class now. | I don't know why you didn't get the letter. Someone in our office must have fouled up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw up** *spoken informal*, **mess up** *informal*

foul-up *informal* N [C]
when someone does something badly or fails at something, especially by making careless mistakes: *Prescott pins the blame firmly on foul-ups made by the previous government.*

2 **foul up** *sth* | **foul** *sth* **up**

informal to completely spoil something such as a plan, a situation, or a relationship: *I hope I haven't fouled up all your plans. | Marrying him was the stupidest thing she'd ever done. It fouled up her entire life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **ruin**

3 | **foul up** *sth* | | **foul** *sth* **up** |

informal to cause an engine, machine, or system to stop working properly: *Bits of rust in the petrol can foul up the engine. | They had problems with the new software, and this fouled up the whole computer system.*

foul-up *informal* N [C]
when an engine, machine, or system stops working properly: *delays caused by computer foul-ups*

FOUND
founded, founded

founded on/upon

● **Be founded upon** is more formal than **be founded on** and is mostly used in writing.

| **be founded on/upon** |

to be based on something, especially a particular idea or belief: *Any relationship has to be founded on some degree of trust. | the democratic principles and values which our society is founded upon | Reflexology is founded on the belief that massaging the feet can affect the health of other parts of the body.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be based on**

F

FREAK
freaked, freaked, freaking

freak out

1 | **freak out** | | **freak** *sb* **out** | | **freak out** *sb* |

informal to suddenly feel very shocked, worried, or frightened, or to make someone feel like this: *My parents freaked out when I quit school. | When I first saw the film it really freaked me out.*

2 | **freak out** |

informal to suddenly behave in a strange and uncontrolled way, for example because you have taken drugs: *Todd always freaks out when he smokes pot. | The poor woman freaked out completely, banging her head against the wall and screaming.*

FREE
freed, freed, freeing

free up

1 | **free up** *sth* | | **free** *sth* **up** |

to make something such as time or money available to be used, by not using it for something else: *NASA hopes that the budget cuts will free up $2 billion, which they can use for other projects. | She thought that if she went freelance, it would free her time up for doing things that she really wanted to do.*

2 | **free up** *sb* | | **free** *sb* **up** |

to make someone have more time available, by doing some of the things they usually do for them: *Why don't you get someone in to help you? It would take a lot of pressure off you, and free you up to do more important things.*

3 | **free up** *sth* | | **free** *sth* **up** |

to make a system work more easily and effectively by getting rid of things that prevent this from happening: *The Conservatives say they want to free up the economy by getting rid of unnecessary rules and regulations.*

FREEZE
froze, frozen, freezing

freeze out

| **freeze** *sb* **out** | | **freeze out** *sb* |

to make it impossible for someone to take part in something by causing problems for them, especially in a way that seems unfair, or by ignoring them and being unfriendly to them: *Some companies try to freeze out the competition, so that they can have the market all to themselves. | I feel like Gary is trying to freeze me out of his life. | Many people feel that they have been frozen out of the housing market, and that they will never be able to afford their own home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squeeze out, exclude, close out** *AmE*

freeze over

| **freeze over** |

to become covered with ice – used especially about lakes, rivers etc: *The lake freezes over for much of the winter. | Workers spread salt on the roads to prevent them from freezing over.*

be frozen over *In January the ponds and streams are all frozen over.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **ice over, ice up**

freeze up

1 | **freeze up** |

if a pipe, lock etc freezes up, it becomes blocked with ice and cannot be used: *We left the heating on in the house to stop the pipes from freezing up. | When I tried to open my car door I found the lock had frozen up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **ice up**

2 | **freeze up** |

to be unable to move, speak, or do anything because you are so nervous or frightened: *He freezes up whenever the teacher asks him a question. | I can't play tennis – I just freeze up whenever the ball comes towards me.*

3 **freeze up**

AmE if a machine, engine etc freezes up, its parts stop moving and it cannot be used: *Inspectors believe the train's brakes froze up, causing a wheel to skip off the tracks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jam up**

FRESHEN

freshened, freshened, freshening

freshen up

1 **freshen up**

to quickly wash yourself or make yourself look more tidy so that you feel cleaner and more comfortable: *I'd like to freshen up back at the hotel room before dinner.*

2 **freshen up** *sth* | **freshen** *sth* **up**

to make something look cleaner, brighter, and more attractive: *Use flowers from the garden to freshen up your house.* | *A new coat of paint will freshen up the walls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

FRIG

frigged, frigged, frigging

frig about/around

frig about/around

BrE informal to waste time doing unnecessary or unimportant things: *Where's Chris? I wish he'd stop frigging about!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **muck around/about** *BrE informal*

FRIGHTEN

frightened, frightened, frightening

frighten away/off

1 **frighten away** *sb/sth* | **frighten** *sb/sth* **away** | **frighten off** *sb/sth* | **frighten** *sb/sth* **off**

to make a person or animal go away by doing something that makes them afraid: *The boys threw stones into the bushes to frighten off the bears.* | *Reeves said he only fired the pistol to frighten the man away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scare away/off**

2 **frighten away** *sb/sth* | **frighten** *sb/sth* **away** | **frighten off** *sb/sth* | **frighten** *sb/sth* **off**

to make a person or organization decide not to do something that they might have been interested in doing, by making them feel worried, unsure, or nervous: *The war has hurt the economy and frightened away investors.* | *A lot of people are frightened off by Bergman's reputation as a 'serious' film-maker, and they think his films must be really boring.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scare away/off**

FRITTER

frittered, frittered, frittering

fritter away

fritter away *sth* | **fritter** *sth* **away**

to carelessly waste money on unimportant things, especially in small amounts, or to waste your time doing something unimportant: *His wife had frittered away all their savings on fancy clothes and trips into town.* | *Kitty felt she was frittering her life away among a lot of dull, provincial women.*

FRIZZ

frizzed, frizzed, frizzing

frizz up

frizz up *sth* | **frizz** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal if your hair is frizzed up or you frizz it up, you make it stand up above your head in stiff curls: *Con says he doesn't like my hair frizzed up too much.*

F

FRIZZLE

frizzled, frizzled, frizzling

frizzle up

frizzle up | **frizzle up** *sth* | **frizzle** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to become dry or burnt or to make something do this: *The meal was all frizzled up in the bottom of the frying pan.*

FRONT

fronted, fronted, fronting

front for

front for *sb/sth*

informal to be the person or organization used for hiding a secret or illegal activity: *The FBI suspected that he was fronting for a gang of drug smugglers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **act as a front for sb/sth**

front on/onto

front on/onto *sth*

especially BrE if a building or town fronts on something, it faces it: *My childhood home was a giant Victorian house that fronted onto a park.* | *The town is about 30 minutes from San Francisco and fronts on the Pacific Ocean.*

* SIMILAR TO: **face**

FROST

frosted, frosted, frosting

frost over/up

frost over/up

to become covered in frost (= a thin layer of ice that looks like white powder): *When we woke up, the windows had frosted over and we could see our breath.* | *Turn on the heat – the windshield is frosting up.*

FROWN

frowned, frowned, frowning

frown on/upon

● **Frown upon** is more formal than **frown on** and is mostly used in writing.

frown on/upon *sb/sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

if something is frowned on, people disapprove of it: *In those days divorce was still frowned on, and people were expected to stay married for the rest of their lives.* | *As children we were often smacked or beaten – something that I'm sure would be frowned on today.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disapprove of**

F

FRY

fried, fried, frying

fry up

fry up *sth* **fry** *sth* **up**

informal to quickly fry some food in order to make a meal: *Do you want me to fry up some eggs?*

fry-up N [C]
BrE informal a quick meal made of fried eggs, bacon etc: *He has a really unhealthy diet – all he ever eats is fry-ups.*

FUCK

fucked, fucked, fucking

● **Fuck** is an extremely rude and offensive word.

fuck around ALSO fuck about *BrE*

1 **fuck around/about**

taboo spoken to waste time or behave in a silly or careless way – used especially when you are extremely annoyed with someone: *I wish she'd stop fucking around and do some work for a change.* | *Are you serious about this, or are you just fucking around?*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **fool around/about, piss about/around** *BrE informal*

2 **fuck** *sb* **around/about**

taboo spoken to make someone angry or annoyed by wasting their time or causing problems for them: *They kept us waiting at the airport for ages, and then the flight was cancelled. They really fucked us around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **muck about/around** *BrE informal*

fuck off

1 **fuck off!**

taboo spoken used to tell someone to go away or stop annoying you when you are very angry: *Fuck off! I never want to speak to you again!* | *If he gives you any more trouble, just tell him to fuck off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off!** *spoken informal*

2 **fuck** *sb* **off**

BrE taboo spoken to make someone feel very annoyed or angry: *"He says he loves me, but he doesn't want to hurt his other girlfriend." "It really fucks me off when people say that."*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *informal*

3 **fuck off**

taboo spoken to leave somewhere suddenly – used especially when you are annoyed with someone for doing this: *And then he just fucked off and left me on my own without any money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *BrE informal*

fuck over

fuck *sb* **over**

AmE taboo spoken to treat someone very badly: *My last boss totally fucked me over, so now I've decided to start my own business.*

get fucked over *"Don't trust anyone there," Miguel told me. "You'll only get fucked over."*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw** *AmE informal*

fuck up

1 **fuck up** **fuck up** *sth* **fuck** *sth* **up**

taboo spoken to do something badly or spoil something by making careless mistakes: *It's your last chance – don't fuck up this time.* | *I don't want to fuck up my chances of going to university.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *spoken informal*

fuck-up N [C]
taboo spoken when someone does something badly or spoils something by making careless mistakes: *the usual fuck-ups at work*

2 **fuck** *sb* **up** **fuck up** *sb*

taboo spoken to make someone so unhappy and confused that it is difficult for them to

deal with their feelings or live normally: *Everyone knows that heroin fucks you up.* | *When she left me, it really fucked me up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*

fuck with

fuck with *sb*

taboo spoken to annoy someone or make them angry: *If you fuck with Carney, you'll be sorry.* | *Don't fuck with me today – I'm in a bad mood.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess with** *informal*

FUEL

fuelled, fuelled, fuelling BrE
fueled, fueled, fueling AmE

fuel up

fuel up | **fuel up** *sth* | **fuel** *sth* **up**

to put petrol or other fuel into a vehicle: *We stopped in Everett to fuel up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **gas up** *AmE*, **fill with petrol etc** *BrE*

FUMBLE

fumbled, fumbled, fumbling

fumble around
ALSO **fumble about** *BrE*

fumble around/about

to move your hands around in order to find something or do something, but with difficulty, for example because you cannot see or you feel nervous: *Frank fumbled around in the darkness, unable to find the light switch.* | *Before I learned how to use a computer, I would fumble about trying to work out which buttons to push.*

+ with *John nervously fumbled around with the papers on his desk.*

FUNCTION

functioned, functioned, functioning

function as

function as *sth*

to have a particular use or purpose: *The Institute functions as a museum and a centre for research.* | *In the daytime the dining room functions as an office.*

FUR

furred, furred, furring

fur up

fur up

BrE if the inside of a pipe or kettle furs up, it becomes covered with a hard grey substance which is formed by chemicals in the water. A kettle is used for boiling water: *There's a lot of chalk in the water, and the kettle tends to get all furred up.*

FURNISH

furnished, furnished, furnishing

furnish with

furnish *sb/sth* **with** *sth*

formal to supply or provide something that is needed or wanted: *He should be able to furnish you with the information you need.* | *The embassy furnished us with a list of local hospitals and English-speaking doctors.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **provide, give, supply**

FUSS

fussed, fussed, fussing

fuss at

fuss at *sb*

AmE to complain or tell someone continuously that you do not like something about them: *The girls' mother fussed at them, saying their clothes were sloppy and their hair was too long and loose.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pick at** *especially AmE*

fuss over

fuss over *sb/sth*

to give someone or something a lot of attention, often too much attention, because you like them or you feel concerned about them: *My aunts and uncles always fuss over me when I stay at their house.* | *They fussed over her as if she were a sick child.* | *Raye spent an hour fussing over her hair.*

FUTZ

futzed, futzed, futzing

futz around

futz around

AmE informal to waste time, especially by doing small unimportant jobs slowly: *I spent the entire day just futzing around.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dink around** *AmE informal*, **diddle around** *AmE informal*, **faff about/around** *BrE informal*

F

G

GABBLE

gabbled, gabbled, gabbling

gabble on/away

gabble on/away

BrE informal to talk quickly for a long time in a way that is boring or difficult to understand: *He was a nice old man, but he spent the whole journey gabbling on about his past.* | *The waiter was gabbling away in French, and she couldn't make out a word of what he was saying.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rattle on** *informal*

GAD

gadded, gadded, gadding

gad about/around

gad about/around

BrE informal to go to many different places to enjoy yourself, especially when you should be doing something else: *I'm stuck at home with the kids while he's gadding about with his friends!*

* SIMILAR TO: **gallivant about/around**

gadabout N [C]
BrE someone who goes out a lot to enjoy themselves and often does not do much work: *Charlie had always been a gadabout, spending most of his time with one girl or another.*

G

GAG

be gagging for it

be gagging for *sth*

BrE informal if someone is gagging for something, they want to do it or have it very much

sb is gagging for it (=someone wants to have sex very much) *Emma Thompson plays Peter's friend Maggie, who is obviously gagging for it.*

GAIN

gained, gained, gaining

gain in

gain in *sth*

if you gain in something, for example weight, height, or confidence, you become heavier, taller, more confident etc: *The baby was starting to gain in weight.* | *As he grew older, he gained in wisdom and experience.*

gain on

1 **gain on** *sb/sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually get closer to a person, car etc when you are chasing them: *Max turned and saw that the police car was gaining on them.* | *His horse was getting tired, and the other horses were starting to gain on him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up with**

2 **gain on** *sb/sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually improve compared to something or someone else, and become almost as successful, good etc as them: *A new opinion poll shows the Republicans gaining on the Democrats.* | *In the 1980s women's wages started seriously gaining on men's for the first time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up with**

GALLIVANT

gallivant about/around

gallivant about/around

gallivant around *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to spend time going to different places to enjoy yourself – used when you disapprove of the person who does this: *Bob's wife spent six months gallivanting around Europe while he was in the hospital.*

+ with *Her sister Rosa was always gallivanting around in bars with older men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gad about/around** *BrE informal*

GALLOP

galloped, galloped, galloping

gallop through

gallop through *sth*

informal to do something or say the words of something very quickly in order to finish it as soon as possible, often so quickly that you do not have time to do it well: *The priest galloped through the service as fast as he could.* | *Try to put some feeling into the poem, instead of just galloping through it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rush**

GALVANIZE

also **GALVANISE** *BrE*

galvanized, galvanized, galvanizing

galvanize into

galvanize *sb* **into** *sth*

to make someone suddenly realize that they must start doing something

galvanize sb into action *The urgency of his voice galvanized the staff into action.*

galvanize sb into (doing) sth *The Omagh bomb shocked public opinion and galvanised the political parties into going ahead with the peace process.*

GAMBLE

gambled, gambled, gambling

gamble away

gamble *sth* **away** | **gamble away** *sth*

to lose lots of money or possessions by playing card games, trying to win money at races etc and not winning: *Men in top hats drank champagne and gambled away their fortunes.*

gamble on

gamble on *sth*

to make your plans according to what you expect and hope will happen, although it is a risk because it may not happen: *They were gambling on reaching the summit before the snow started falling again.* | *Rover is gambling on the success of its new luxury car.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on/upon, count on/upon**

GANG

ganged, ganged, ganging

gang together

gang together

to join together in a group, especially to oppose someone: *The smaller supermarkets are ganging together to beat the bigger ones at their own game.*

gang up

gang up

to join together in a group to attack or oppose someone, especially in a way that seems unfair

+ on *She felt we were all ganging up on her and trying to stop her from doing her job.* | *The British establishment ganged up on him, and wrongly accused him of being a troublemaker.*

+ against *Markenkov's rivals ganged up against him and forced him to give up his position as party secretary.*

GAS

gassed, gassed, gassing

gas on

gas on

BrE *informal* to talk about something for too long in a boring way

+ about *He's always gassing on about football.*

gas up

gas up | **gas** *sth* **up** | **gas up** *sth*

AmE to put gas (=petrol) in a car of vehicle: *We'd better gas up before we get on the freeway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill up**

GASP

gasped, gasped, gasping

gasp out

gasp out *sth* | **gasp** *sth* **out**

to say something with difficulty because you are breathing very quickly and deeply, for example because you have been using a lot of effort, or your body is weak: *"I think I've been shot," he gasped out, then fell to the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gasp**

GATHER

gather around ALSO gather round BrE

gather around *sb/sth*

gather round *sb/sth*

gather around/round

to come together and form a group around someone or something: *A small crowd of admirers gathered around her after the concert.* | *Now, children, I want you all to gather round and I'll tell you a story.*

gather in

gather in *sth* | **gather** *sth* **in**

to collect a group of things together and put them or store them somewhere – used especially about collecting crops: *The farmers were out in the fields, gathering in the harvest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gather**

gather round

SEE **gather around**

gather up

1 **gather** *sth* **up** | **gather up** *sth*

to collect things from different places in order to take or put them somewhere: *She gathered up her things and quietly left the office.* | *We collected all the apples that were on the ground, gathering them up in big bags.*

G

2 **gather** *sth* **up** | **gather up** *sth*

BrE to pull cloth together, especially in folds: *Jenny gathered up the curtain material and stitched it together.*

3 **gather up** *sb* | **gather** *sb* **up**

literary to put your arms around someone and hold them closely, especially in order to comfort them or show that you love them: *He gathered his daughter up in his arms, and kissed her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hug, embrace**

4 **gather yourself up**

literary to stand up: *He gathered himself to his full height and puffed out his chest.*

GEAR

geared, geared, gearing

gear to/towards
ALSO **gear toward** *especially AmE*

be geared to *sth/sb*

be geared towards *sth/sb*

to be organized or designed in a way that is suitable for a particular purpose, situation, or type of person: *At Club 18–30, all of our holidays are geared to maximum fun. | There is a specialized sports and fitness program which is geared towards the needs of older people.*

geared to/towards doing sth *Many schools are totally gearing towards passing exams instead of providing a broad education.*

gear up

gear up

to prepare for something that is going to happen soon, or for something that may be necessary

+ for *Unemployment fell by more than 3,000 as the region started to gear up for the tourist season.*

+ to do sth *He was struggling to deal with the rebels at the same time as gearing up to run for re-election.*

gear yourself up *Apple has been gearing itself up for the launch of its new computer, the iMac.*

be geared up (for sth/to do sth) (=be well prepared for sth) *After years and years of married life, a lot of people aren't geared up to live independently.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prepare**

G

GEE

geed, geed, geeing

gee up

1 **gee up!**

BrE spoken old-fashioned used to tell a horse to move forwards or go faster

* SIMILAR TO: **giddy up!** *spoken*

2 **gee** *sb* **up** | **gee up** *sb*

BrE informal to make someone feel more confident and encourage them to try harder to succeed: *Last week's 5-goal success against Swindon will gee United up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up, encourage**

3 **gee** *sb* **up** | **gee up** *sb*

BrE informal to persuade someone to do something more quickly or try harder to do something: *Ring the builders, and see if you can gee them up a bit.*

GEN

genned, genned, genning

gen up

1 **be genned up**

BrE old-fashioned informal to know a lot about a particular subject: *Why don't you ask Sue? She's pretty genned up about that sort of thing.*

2 **gen up**

BrE old-fashioned to find out all the information you can about something so that you are ready to do something

+ on *It's a good idea to gen up on the company before you go to an interview.*

get genned up *I'll get genned up on what I've got to do at the wedding.*

GET

got, got BrE gotten AmE, getting

get about

1a **get about**

BrE to be able to move around places without much difficulty – use this about people who are old, ill, or injured: *My grandfather's eighty now, and he doesn't get about much. | Phil had broken his leg, but could still get about on crutches.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

1b **get about**

BrE to travel around a city or area: *The streets are filled with bicycles, still the best way of getting about in Parma.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

2 **get about**

BrE if news or information gets about, a lot of people hear about it – use this especially about information that should be secret: *"Who told you that!" "Well, you know how things get about in a small community," said Dimity awkwardly. | I was sure that Maslin was having a homosexual affair, but how would Mrs Maslin feel if such a story got about?*

word gets about (=many people hear about something) *Word had got about that the company was in trouble, and clients began to cancel their orders.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get out, get around**

3 **get about**

BrE spoken to travel to a lot of different places: *Tommy certainly gets about – last month he was in Japan, and now they've sent him to Singapore.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

4 **get about**

BrE spoken to have sexual relationships with a lot of different people: *That Brendan gets about a bit, you know. Every time I see him he's with a different woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

get above

get above yourself

BrE to think that you are more important or powerful than you really are: *That guy's getting above himself – he's only been in the job a few weeks and he thinks he can tell other people what to do.*

get across

a **get** *sth* **across** **get across** *sth*

NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in making someone understand an idea or message

get a point/message/idea across *Animal rights activists held a demonstration outside the store to get their point across.*

+ to *What I'm trying to get across to you in this seminar today, is the importance of team work and communication.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get over**

b **get across**

if an idea or message gets across, someone succeeds in making people understand it: *Aids charities are concerned that the message about condoms and safer sex isn't getting across to many young people.*

get after

1 **get after** *sb/sth*

to chase someone or something: *You'd better get after your dog! He's in the neighbours' garden again. | The man leaped over the fence and ran down the road. "Go on, get after him!" I shouted.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chase, go after**

2 **get after** *sth*

to try to stop a problem from developing or spreading: *Get after weeds before they become established and take over everything | We should start getting after the important cancer risks such as smoking, preventable infections and high fat diets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

3 **get after** *sb*

AmE informal to tell someone to do something and remind them again and again: *Paul's mother always gets after him for leaving the kitchen in a mess.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on at sb** *BrE informal*

get ahead

get ahead

to be successful in your job so that you can progress to a more important job or a higher rank: *Work hard and you'll get ahead. That's what capitalism is all about.*

+ in *There are things I want do in my life: earn a good salary, get ahead in a career.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get on** *BrE*, **progress**

get along

1 **get along**

to deal with a job or situation, especially when you do it successfully and make progress: *John's getting along really well in his job – his boss really likes him. | Educators should concentrate on teaching the skills necessary to get along in a competitive world – reading, math, science.*

how is sb getting along? (=used to ask how someone is dealing with a new job or situation) *How's your daughter getting along at university?*

+ with *"How are you getting along with the painting?" "Fine – it's almost done."*

get along without (=succeed in dealing with a situation without someone or something) *You're too sick to go to work – they'll just have to get along without you. | You can't get along without a sense of humour, especially in this job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cope, manage, get on** *especially BrE*

2 **get along**

if two or more people get along, they have a friendly relationship

+ with *Rachel doesn't get along with her dad at all.*

get along well (together) *"How's your new roommate?" "Really nice, yeah – we get along really well."*

be easy/difficult to get along with *I've always found him a bit difficult to get along with.*

get along like a house on fire (=get along very well) *It was clear that he and Simone were getting along like a house on fire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get on**

3 **I must be getting along**

spoken used to tell someone that you must leave, because you have things to do: *Well, I must be getting along – the kids'll be home from school soon.*

get around

1a **get around** **get around** *sth*

to travel around a city or area: *One of the best ways to get around Amsterdam is by boat.* | *If we hired a car, we'd be able to get around and see more.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** *BrE*

1b **get around**

to be able to move around places without much difficulty – use this about people who are old, ill, or injured: *Even though she's over 90 and nearly blind, she still gets around with a little help.* | *The Capitol building has ramps and elevators so that wheelchair users can get around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** *BrE*

2 **get around** *sth*

if you get around a problem, you find a way of dealing with it, especially by avoiding it: *There's no way your mother can stay here – we'll just have to get around it somehow.* | *When the train drivers held a one-day strike many commuters got around the problem by taking the day off.* | *Stores introduce new security systems, but experienced shoplifters always find ways to get around them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get round** *BrE*, **get over**

3 **get around** *sth*

if you get around a law or rule, you find a legal way of doing something which the law or rule was intended to prevent: *Most companies are looking for ways to get around the tax laws.* | *smart lawyers who offer advice on how to get around the new restrictions on share dealing*

4 **get around**

if news or information gets around, a lot of people hear about it – use this especially about information that should be secret: *The rumours are already starting to get around.* | *Surkov put a twenty pound note in his hand. "We don't want this to get around if we can possibly avoid it."*

word gets around (=many people hear about something) *Word must have got around that the band was staying there, and by evening the hotel was surrounded by screaming fans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** *BrE*, **get round** *BrE*

5 **get around** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

BrE to gently persuade someone to do what you want by being friendly to them: *"Won't your dad mind?" "Don't worry – I know how to get around him."*

* SIMILAR TO: **get round** *BrE*

6a **get around**

to travel to a lot of different places: *Steve's just come back from Hong Kong – he certainly gets around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** *BrE spoken*

7 **there's no getting around** *sth*

especially spoken used when you are mentioning an unpleasant fact that cannot be changed or ignored: *There's just no getting around the fact that people will have to pay more tax or services will have to be cut.* | *He didn't love his wife anymore. There was no getting around it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **there's not getting away from sth, there's no getting round sth** *BrE*

8 **get around**

spoken to have sexual relationships with a lot of different people: *She gets around, you know – she was well known for it at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** *BrE spoken*

get around to

get around to *sth*

to finally do something that you have been intending to do for some time: *I kept meaning to write to him, but I just never got around to it.*

get around to doing sth *I got the Doolittle book for Trent's mom but I haven't got around to taking it to the Post Office yet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get round to sth** *BrE*

get at

1 **what** *sb* **is getting at**

what someone really means, when they are not saying it directly: *I see what you're getting at, but I think you're wrong.*

what are you getting at? *Come on, Sergeant, what are you getting at? Are you trying to suggest that I knew something about it?*

* SIMILAR TO: **what sb is driving at**

2 **get at** *sth*

to succeed in reaching or getting something:

G

When firemen tried to open the garage door to get at the fire, they found it welded shut. | The book you want is up there. You'll have to stand on a chair to get at it. | Software that enables you to get at the information you need more quickly.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reach**

3 **get at the truth/the facts**

to discover the truth about a situation, especially when other people do not want you to discover it: *Brian Cox plays a top government investigator determined to get at the truth when his friend disappears in mysterious circumstances. | There's a great deal of secrecy in government departments, which makes it difficult for ordinary people to get at the real facts.*

4 **get at** *sb/sth*

to reach someone or something and attack or harm them: *Plant the seedlings in a sheltered position where the frost can't get at them. | An angry crowd surrounded a police van and pounded on the vehicle in an effort to get at the man who had been detained.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **attack**

5 **get at** *sb*

BrE informal to criticize someone in an unfair and annoying way: *My Mum's always getting at me about my clothes. | Rob feels as if he's being got at all the time. | I'm not trying to get at you personally – I just think that we should all try to work more as a team.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **criticize, pick at** *especially AmE*

6 **get at** *sb*

informal to threaten the people who decide whether someone is guilty in a court of law, in order to influence their decision: *At least eight members of the jury had been got at.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **nobble** *BrE informal*

get away

1 **get away**

to succeed in leaving a place or a person, especially when this is difficult: *There's a meeting after work, but I should be able to get away by seven. | She just wouldn't stop talking – I couldn't get away .*

+ from *People come to the national park to get away from city noise and traffic.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **escape**

2 **get away**

to escape from someone who is chasing you: *Two officers went after them, sir, but they got away. | The two men got away in a blue pick-up truck.*

+ with *Thieves got away with a million dollar's worth of jewellery.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **escape**

getaway N [SINGULAR]
if you make a getaway, you escape after doing something illegal, especially stealing something: *He scooped the money into a cardboard box and made his getaway on the subway.*

getaway ADJ
a getaway vehicle is used by thieves to escape after they have stolen something: *McCarthy and Powers had carried out the robbery, and Guthrie had driven the getaway car.*

3 **get away**

to take a holiday away from the place where you normally live: *Are you going to be able to get away this summer? | Work's really stressful at the moment – I need to get away for a few days.*

get away from it all (=have a relaxing holiday) *an island paradise, the perfect place to get away from it all*

getaway N [SINGULAR]
a relaxing holiday – used especially in advertisements: *Valentine's Day is near, and it's a wonderful time for a romantic getaway.*

4 **get away!**

BrE spoken informal used to say that you are very surprised by something or do not believe it: *"Simon asked me to marry him." "Get away!"*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on!** *spoken informal*

G

get away from

1 **get away from** *sth*

to start doing things differently or thinking differently from the way that people have usually been doing things or thinking: *We need to get away from the old idea that the doctor knows everything. | Courtney wanted to get away from her punk image and become a glamorous movie star. | Freud wanted to get away from the narrow concept of sex as merely a means of reproduction.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **break away (from)**

2 **get away from** *sth*

to begin to talk about other things, rather than the subject you should be discussing: *I think we are getting away from the main issue.*

3 **there's no getting away from** *sth*

you can't get away from *sth*

especially spoken used when talking about an unpleasant fact that cannot be changed or ignored: *There's no getting away from the fact that educational standards have fallen over the last 20 years. | If you want to lose weight, you have to give up alcohol – you can't get away from it.*

get away with

1 **get away with** | *sth* | NOT PASSIVE

to not be noticed or punished when you have done something wrong

get away with it *The kid was being so rude, and his mother just let him get away with it! | These people are breaking into cars and just getting away with it – they never seem to get caught.*

get away with doing sth *I don't know how they manage to get away with paying such low wages.*

get away with sth *They were identical twins, and so cute they could get away with anything.*

get away with murder (=do something wrong many times or do something serious and not be punished) *These are people with money and influence, so they can get away with murder.*

2 **get away with** | *sth* | NOT PASSIVE

spoken to be able to do something that it is not the best thing to do, but that is acceptable: *I'm so envious of people who can wear bright colours like orange and yellow. I can't get away with wearing anything like that. | I think we can get away with one coat of paint on the ceiling.*

G

get back

1 **get back**

to return to a place after going somewhere else: *We'll probably get back at about nine. | I'm tired. We got back really late last night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return**

2 **get** | *sth* | **back**

to have something given back to you: *I took pity on him and lent him £40. Well, he gets paid next Friday, so I'll get it back on Saturday. | Did you get your books back?*

get your money back (=a shop or company returns the money that you paid for something) *If they cancel the show, will we get our money back?*

3 **get** | *sb* | **back**

to do something to hurt or embarrass someone, in order to punish them for hurting or embarrassing you: *His wife got him back by coolly advertising his Rolls Royce in the paper and then selling it, for £100.*

+ for *Don't worry – I'll get her back for this!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **payback**

4 **get** | *sb* | **back**

to persuade a lover, wife, or husband who has left you to start having a relationship with you again: *"Do you think she's trying to get him back?" asked Melissa, anxiously.*

5 **get back!**

used to tell someone to move away from something or someone: *Get back, he's got a gun!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

get back at

get back at | *sb* | NOT PASSIVE

to do something to hurt or harm someone, in order to punish them for hurting or harming you: *Then she started dating my best friend, just to get back at me. | Sounds as if he was doing it deliberately to get back at her, doesn't it?*

+ for *The court heard how Wright had kidnapped his boss to get back at her for firing him.*

get back into

1 **get back into** | *sth*

to start doing a job or activity again after not doing it for a period of time: *The former chief of Kmart Corp. is getting back into the retail business, this time selling videos over the Internet. | The children were growing up, and I decided I wanted to get back into nursing.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

2 **get back into** | *sth*

to start to get used to doing something that you did regularly in the past, but have not done for a period of time: *I hadn't done any exercise for a long time, so it took me a while to get back into it.*

get back to

1 **get back to** | *sth*

to start doing something again after not doing it for a period of time

get back to work *I found it really hard getting back to work after my vacation.*

get back to sleep *Judy woke up in the middle of the night and couldn't get back to sleep.*

get back to normal (=become normal again) *The war was over, and life was slowly beginning to get back to normal.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

2 **get back to** | *sb*

especially spoken to talk to someone again at a later time, especially by telephone – use this especially when you are too busy to talk to them now: *Okay, so I'll try and get back to you in the next few days. | He said he'd let me know, but he never got back to me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **call back** *especially spoken*, **ring back** *BrE especially spoken*, **phone back** *especially spoken*

3 **get back to** *sth*

to start talking about something after not talking about it for a period of time: *As usual, we got back to the subject of money.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

get back together

get back together

if two lovers or people who are married get back together, they start having a relationship again, after spending a period of time apart: *Do you think Eleanor and Mark will get back together? | "Is she still going out with Leo?" "Yeah. They broke up last year, but then they got back together."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get back with sb**

get back with

get back with *sb*

to start having a relationship with a lover, husband, or wife again, after spending a period of time apart: *I knew Tom wanted to get back with his ex-girlfriend, and it made me feel very insecure. | D'you think Natalie will get back with Scott?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get back together**

get behind

1 **get behind**

if you get behind with a regular payment such as rent, you have not paid as much as you should have

+ with BrE *I've been getting behind with the mortgage, and I'm worried that the bank will repossess my house.*

+ on AmE *Werner got behind on his rent after he lost his job.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

2 **get behind**

if you get behind with your work, you have not done as much as you should have: *I'm worried that if I stay off sick I'll get behind.*

get behind with your work *Lauren was getting behind with her work, but there was no one to turn to.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

3 **get behind** *sb/sth*

to support or encourage someone or something and help them to be successful: *The England fans were great. They really got behind us.*

get by

1 **get by**

to have or know just enough of something to deal with a particular situation, but not enough to make it easy: *"Can you speak French?" "I know enough to get by."*

+ on *He routinely works 14-hour days, getting by on four or five hours of sleep a night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **manage**

2 **get by**

to have enough money to buy the things you need to live, but no more: *He earns just enough to get by.*

get by on $200/£50 a week/month etc *"I have families in my district trying to get by on $4.25 an hour," Green said.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **scrape by**

3 **get by**

if a vehicle or a person gets by, they pass something that was stopping them from continuing: *Cars pulled into the side of the road to let the ambulance get by.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass**

get down

1 **get down**

to move your body so that you are close to the ground: *Two men burst in with guns "Everyone get down! Get down on the floor!"*

get down on your hands and knees (=kneel with your hands on the floor) *Every Friday morning my grandmother would get down on her hands and knees and wash the tile floor in the entry hall.*

get down on your knees (=kneel, especially to pray) *For the first time in his life, he got down on his knees and prayed.*

2 **get** *sth* **down**

to succeed in reducing the amount or number of something: *Forty members of staff were made redundant in an attempt to get costs down.*

+ to *The government has got inflation down to 4%. | We got staffing down to 3000.*

3 **get** *sb* **down** NOT PASSIVE

if a situation gets you down, it continues over a period of time, making you feel increasingly unhappy and tired: *I'd been unemployed since I left college, and it was really getting me down.*

let sb/sth get you down *She had been battling against cancer and had refused to let the illness get her down. | Geoff, don't let them get you down!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **depress**

4 **get** *sth* **down**

to write something quickly, especially so that you do not forget it: *Let me get your number down before I forget it. | Don't stare at a blank screen all day – just get something down!*

get sth down on paper (=write something instead of just thinking or saying it) *Get together for a discussion and come up with some ideas, then get them down on paper.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write down, jot down**

5 **get** *sth* **down**

to succeed in swallowing food or drink, especially when this is difficult because you are ill: *My throat was still sore and I couldn't get anything down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swallow**

6 **get that down you**

BrE spoken used to tell someone to drink or eat what you are giving them, because it will make them feel happier or more comfortable: *Piper thrust a mug of tea into my hands. "Here, get that down you."*

get down on

get down on *sb*

AmE informal to criticize someone continuously over a period of time: *The press should stop getting down on our troops. | The bosses at CBS got down on him from time to time, but the workers loved him.*

get down on yourself *"I'm going to keep being positive. I'm not going to get down on myself," Burkett said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **criticize**

get down to

get down to *sth*

to finally make a serious effort and start doing something: *After Christmas I'm going to get down to some serious jobhunting. | I've got an essay to write, but I just can't get down to it. | By the time we got down to work, it was already 10.30.*

get down to doing sth *I must get down to writing that letter.*

get down to business (=start dealing with the most important things without wasting any time) *There's a lot to get through today, so let's get down to business.*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle down to**

get in

1 **get in**

to go into something such as a car or small boat: *Gegs pulled up in his car. "Get in – I'll give you a ride." | Eric held the boat steady while the children got in.*

2 **get in**

to be allowed to enter a place: *There's a new club opened in town, but you have to be 21 to get in. | We wanted to see the Bulls game but we couldn't get in.* (=all the tickets were sold)

3 **get in**

to succeed in entering a place: *How did you get in? I thought the door was locked. | Firefighters tried to get in through the window, but were beaten back by flames.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter, gain access** *formal*

4 **get in**

to arrive at your home or at work: *Listen, I'll have Mike call you when he gets in. | What time did you get in last night?*

5 **get in**

if a train, ship, or plane gets in at a particular time, it arrives at that time: *What time does your train get in? | Our flight was delayed and we got in late.*

+ to *We get in to Dallas around noon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arrive**

6 **get** *sb* **in**

to arrange for someone to come to your home, office etc to do a job, especially to repair something: *The washing machine isn't working – we'd better get someone in to fix it.*

7 **get** *sth* **in** **get in** *sth*

to find the time or opportunity to do something even though there is not much time, because you have other things to do: *The President managed to get in a round of golf before the talks began. | I want to get a couple of hours' work in before I go out. | We need to get some practice in before the performance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit in**

8 **get** *sth* **in**

to give or send written work, a letter etc to a person or company, before a particular time or date: *Please get your assignments in by Thursday. | Did you get that application form in?*

9 **get in**

BrE if a politician or political party gets in, they are elected: *The Democrats got in with a huge majority. | What has happened to all those women MPs who got in at the last election?*

* SIMILAR TO: **to be elected**

10 **get** *sth* **in**

to go outside and gather things together, and put them in a place where they will not be spoiled by the weather: *The whole village was working to get the harvest in. | Can you help me get the washing in?*

11 **get in**

to succeed in getting a place at a university, college etc: *Students who don't have at least a B average have no hope of getting in.*

12 **get** *sth* **in**

BrE especially spoken to buy a supply of something you need and bring it home: *We need to get some food in – I'll go to the supermarket on my way home.*

13 **get** *sth* **in**

if a shop gets a product in, it gets a supply of it to be sold: *We get new things in all the time, so try next week.*

14 **get** *sb* **in**

if a shop, theatre etc gets people in, it attracts them in: *We're putting on a special promotion to try and get people in*

15 **get in first**

to say something before the person that you are competing or arguing with is able to say anything: *Reid went to see the management, but discovered that Karen Skinner had got in first and made a complaint about him.* | *She opened her mouth, but he got in first. "Where the blazes have you been?" he demanded before she could blink.* | *Trust the Daily Mail to get in first, with exclusive pictures of the prince's new love.*

16 **get** *sth* **in**

BrE spoken to go to the bar and buy drinks for yourself and the person or people who are with you: *You grab a table – I'll get the beers in.*

get in on

get in on *sth*

to start doing something that other people are already doing or planning, because you think you will get an advantage: *The success of children's films like 'Aladdin' and 'The Lion King' made people think "This is a big market – let's get in on it."*

get in on the act (=get in on something that seems to be successful) *US Air began offering a booking service directly over the Internet, and now other airlines are getting in on the act too.*

get into

1 **get into** *sth* **get** *sb* **into** *sth*

to become involved in an unpleasant or difficult situation, or involve someone else in such a situation: *Pietro, these are dangerous men! Have you any idea what you are getting into?*

get (yourself) into trouble/difficulties/a mess *These kids get into all sorts of trouble while their parents are at work.* | *"How on earth did you get yourself into this mess?" she asked. Sian just burst into tears.* | *Three people were rescued from a yacht which got into difficulties in heavy seas off Bardsey Island.*

get sb into trouble/a mess *They got us into this mess – it's up to them to get us out of it.*

2 **get into a fight/argument etc**

to become involved in a fight or argument: *She and another gal got into an argument outside a bar in Jackson Mississippi.* | *Ryan got into a shouting match with the coach, and then stormed out of the club.*

3 **get into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to start to do something regularly

get into the habit of doing sth *Get into the habit of taking regular exercise.*

get into a routine (=start doing things regularly, at the same time every day or week) *The thing is you've got to get into a routine haven't you? Children need routine.*

4 **get into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be accepted as a student by a college or university: *My father and brother were sure he would get into Harvard or Yale without any trouble.*

5 **get into** *sth*

BrE to be accepted as a member of a sports team: *I practised every day, determined to get into the school football team.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make** *especially AmE*

6 **get into** *sth*

to succeed in getting a particular job or working in a particular area: *She was doing real estate law and hated it, and she wanted to get into environmental law.* | *Susan wants to be a theatre manager, but I think it's a very difficult business to get into.*

7 **get into a state/mood/panic**

to become upset, anxious, angry, frightened etc: *David got into a terrible state over the exams, you know – he couldn't sleep for weeks.* | *When the children didn't arrive, she got into a panic and phoned the police.*

8 **get into** *sth* NOT IN PASSIVE

to become interested in a book, film, piece of music etc, so that you enjoy it and want to read, see, or hear more: *I tried to read 'Moby Dick' when I was at college, but I just couldn't get into it.* | *Peter tapped his feet and bobbed his head, really getting into the music.*

9 **get into** *sth*

to start talking about a particular subject: *Let's not even get into it, honey. I'll break down crying – I miss my man so, so much.* | *Before we get into a debate on the single currency, I'd just like to make a few announcements.*

10 **what's got into** *sb* *BrE spoken*

what's gotten into *sb* *AmE spoken*

used to show that you are surprised because

G

someone is behaving very differently from the way they usually behave: *"Out!" Eunice ordered, pointing at the door. "This is crazy!" he said. "Eunice, what's got into you?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **what's the matter with sb?**

11 **can't get into**

if you cannot get into clothes, they are too small for you: *"It's a lovely dress but I'm too fat to get into it." "You're not fat!"*

12 **get into power/government**

to start having political control of a country: *If the Social Democrats got into power, they would change the whole system of local government.*

13 **get into groups/pairs/threes etc**

if students in a classroom get into groups, they form small groups so that they can work together: *So if you could get into groups of maybe about four, and come up with four or five possible solutions...*

get in with

get in with *sb*

to become friendly with a person or group – used especially when you disapprove of this relationship: *She had married a rich man, and then used his money to get in with Chicago's social elite.*

get in with the wrong crowd (=become friendly with people who influence you to behave badly) *Shanie wasn't a bad kid – she just got in with the wrong crowd.*

G

get off

1 **get off** *sth* **get off**

if you get off a bus, plane, large boat, train etc, you leave it: *They saw Edwin getting off the ferry and raced to meet him.* | *Get off the subway at Seventy-eighth Street – the restaurant is just across the street.* | *This is where I get off – I'll call you! Bye!*

2 **get off** **get off** *sth*

to leave your place of work when you have finished work for that day: *I get off early on Friday, so maybe we could go to the movies or something?* | *But she doesn't get off work until five thirty, so you know she won't be there until six thirty.*

3a **get off**

spoken to leave the place where you are or start a journey: *What time do you want to get off in the morning?*

+ to *Right, I'll get off to the shops and get her the stuff that she wants.*

3b **get** *sb* **off**

to help someone, especially a child, so that they are ready to leave a place

+ to *I'll come round after I get the kids off to school.*

4a **get off**

to not be punished for a crime or something you have done wrong: *If he gets off, it's because he has a smart lawyer.*

get off with a fine/two months etc (=get a punishment that is less severe than you deserve) *If she's very lucky, she may get off with a fine.*

get of lightly (=get a punishment that is less severe than you deserve) *You got off lightly. You could have been sent to prison.*

4b **get** *sb* **off** NOT PASSIVE

if a lawyer gets a criminal off, he or she succeeds in persuading the court that the criminal should not be punished: *I know a man who killed his wife with a hammer. His lawyer got him off on a plea of temporary insanity.*

5 **get off** *sth* **get** *sb* **off** *sth*

to stop being dependent on something that you used to have regularly, or to make someone else do this: *I wanted to get off drugs, but my family wouldn't support me – they just didn't want to know.* | *Getting people off welfare and into paying jobs is a major national priority.* | *At this stage the mother should be getting the baby off breast milk and onto solid food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come off**

6 **get off the phone**

to stop using the telephone: *I'm waiting for Veronica to get off the phone, so I can call Mom.*

7 **get off!** **get off** *sth* **!**

spoken used to tell someone to stop touching you or stop touching something: *"I'm going to tickle you!" "No, get off! Get off!"* | *Get off those chocolates – they're mine!*

8 **get** *sth* **off**

informal to send a letter, package etc by mail, especially before a particular time: *I have to get this application off today.*

+ to *I'll get that confirmation letter off to you as quickly as possible.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

9 **get off** *sth* **get** *sb* **off** *sth*

to stop talking about a subject and talk about something else, or to make someone else do this: *Can we get off politics and talk about something else for a change?* | *The Minister was naturally anxious to get me off the subject of the 'Save our Schools' campaign.*

10a **get off**

BrE to succeed in going to sleep, especially when this is difficult: *I just couldn't get off last night – it must have been the coffee.*

get off to sleep *When she finally got off to sleep, she was tortured by dreadful nightmares.*

10b **get** *sb* **off**

BrE to succeed in making a baby go to sleep: *Duncan's upstairs trying to get the baby off.*

11 **get off**

AmE informal to have an orgasm (=reach the point of greatest sexual pleasure): *I just could not get off, so we went to see a sex therapist.*

12 **get off** *sth*

AmE to succeed in doing something: *The Kings not only failed to get off a single shot but also gave up a short-handed goal.*

13 **get off** *sth*

AmE to tell a joke or say something funny: *Lionel got off a one-liner about making more than the President because he had a better year than the President.*

14 **get off**

AmE spoken informal to have a good feeling because you have taken drugs: *We did some speed, man, and really got off.*

+ on *Jack used to get off on cocaine, but he's straightened up now.*

15 **where does** *sb* **get off doing** *sth* **?**

AmE spoken used when you think someone has done something to you that they have no right to do: *Where does he get off telling me how to live my life? | I don't know where he gets off treating you like that!*

16 **get off it**

AmE informal used to tell someone to stop talking or thinking about a particular subject: *Get off it. If you want to talk about love, maybe it's better you talk about it without me around.*

17 **tell** *sb* **where to get off**

BrE spoken to speak angrily to someone because what they have done, said, or asked is unfair, unreasonable, or rude: *"Morris asked me to work late again." "Bloody cheek! I hope you told him where to get off."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tell sb where to go**

get off on

get off on *sth*

informal if you get off on something, it gives you a feeling of pleasure and excitement, especially sexual excitement: *This guy enjoys scaring people – he gets off on that kind of thing. | porn addicts who get off on weird sex*

get off with

get off with *sb*

BrE informal to start a sexual or romantic relationship with someone: *She spent the whole evening trying to get off with Michael.*

get on

1 **get on**

especially BrE if two or more people get on, they have a friendly relationship

+ with *"How do you get on with Julie?" "Oh, fine."*

get on well (together) *Janet's a lovely person. We've always got on well together.*

be easy/difficult to get on with *I've always found him a bit difficult to get on with. | She's easy to get on with is Eileen – my interests are very much like hers.*

not get on *Those two don't get on, do they?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get along**

2 **get on** *sth* **get on**

to go onto a bus, train, boat, plane etc: *We drove her to Columbus and she got on the plane to San Francisco. | The inspector examined my ticket. "Where did you get on?" "Trafalgar Square."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **board** *formal*

3 **get on**

to deal with a job or situation, especially when you do it successfully and make progress: *Martin's getting on very well in his new job.*

how is sb getting on? (=used to ask how someone is dealing with a new job or situation) *How's your daughter getting on at university?*

+ with *How are you getting on with your research project?*

get on without sb (=succeed in dealing with a situation without someone or something) *I shall miss you – in fact I don't know how I'll get on without you.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get along**

4 **how did you get on?**

spoken used to ask someone about the result of their visit, examination etc: *"How did you get on at the doctor's?" "All right, she gave me some antibiotics and she said the infection should clear up."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **how did it go?** *spoken*, **how did you make out?** *spoken, especially AmE*

5 **get on**

especially spoken to continue doing something that you were doing before

+ with *Get on with your work! | We should leave the President's love-life alone, and let him get on with the business of running the country.*

get on *BrE* *I'd like to stop and chat, but I really must get on.*

G

get on with it! (=used to tell someone to work faster) *Come on, get on with it! We haven't got all day!*

6 **get on**

BrE to be successful in your job so that you can progress to a more important job or a higher rank: *That new bloke's very keen – you can see he really wants to get on.*

+ in *If you want to get on in politics, you have to take every opportunity that comes your way.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get ahead, progress**

7 **be getting on**

spoken if someone is getting on, they are getting old: *We're both getting on, now, and we can't travel about like we used to.*

8 **get on the phone/telephone**

to start talking to someone on the telephone, especially to discuss business: *The day didn't start with small talk and coffee. You were expected to get on the phone and start making money.*

+ to *He got on the phone to Campbell and Bruce and told them we were cancelling our order.*

9 **it's getting on/time's getting on**

BrE spoken used to say that it is getting late: *We'd better get started – time's getting on.*

G

10 **get it on**

AmE informal to have sex: *I heard they were getting it on in his office.*

get on at

get on at *sb*

spoken to keep criticizing someone, especially about something that they have not done and should have done: *My mother's always getting on at me – she says my room's a disgrace.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep on at, nag**

get on for

◆ **be getting on for 90, 10 o'clock, £500 etc**

BrE to be almost a particular age, time, number, or price: *Her grandad must be getting on for eighty. | I should be going home – it must be getting on for midnight.*

get onto/get on to

1 **get onto/on to** *sth*

to begin to talk about a particular subject, after you have been talking about something else: *I don't know how we got on to this, but we were just talking about funerals. | As usual we got onto the subject of money.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come on to**

2 **get onto/on to** *sb*

BrE to telephone or write to a person or organization, especially because you want them to do something for you: *"Did you get on to the electrician?" "Yes, he's coming tomorrow to have a look at the wiring." | I'm afraid I can't help you. You'd better get onto the Embassy.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **contact**

3 **get onto/on to** *sb*

BrE it the police, government officers etc get onto someone who is secretly doing something illegal, they find out about that person and their illegal activities: *The police got onto Timmy just as he was planning to leave the country. | How did they get on to him? Surely Tracey hadn't given him away?*

4 **get onto/on to** *sth*

to be elected as a member of a committee, political organization etc: *Her political career began when she got onto the local council in 1979.*

5 **get onto/on to** *sth*

BrE to succeed in being accepted on a course or scheme (=an official plan intended to help people by giving them money, training etc): *It's an excellent course, but it's really difficult to get onto it. | To get on to the scheme you have to produce a business plan, and then pass an interview.*

6 **get onto/on to it**

to start dealing with a problem, especially in an effective and determined way: *Anyway, this new solicitor got onto it, and he was really good. We got £2,000 compensation. | Also please instruct the records office to prepare a report on Manville and all his known contacts." "Yes sir. I'll get onto it right away."*

get out

◆1 **get out**

to get out of a car, train, small boat etc: *Jack told Fogarty to stop the car, and we got out to have a look at the view.*

+ of *I got out of the car and strode up to the front porch.*

◆2a **get out**

to escape from a place that it is difficult to escape from, or where there is danger: *How did the dog manage to get out? The gate was shut.*

+ of *Nobody's gotten out of Kansas County Jail in 50 years.*

get out alive *We were lucky to get out alive. The whole building was on fire.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **escape**

2b **get** *sb* **out**

to help someone to escape from a place that is difficult to escape from or where there is danger: *There were two people trapped in the house, but firefighters managed to get them out.*

3 **get** *sth* **out**

to take something out of a bag, cupboard, container, your pocket etc: *I got the dictionary out and looked up 'passport' and 'lost,' and tried to explain the situation to the hotel receptionist.*

+ of *Ursula got a bottle of pills out of her handbag. "Here, take two of these."*

4 **get out!**

spoken used to rudely order someone to leave a room or a building because you are angry with them: *Get out! I'm trying to do my homework.*

+ of *Miriam trembled with rage. Her lips became pale. "Get out of this house, you lying bastard!"*

5 **get out**

to leave an unpleasant situation: *After nearly five years in the Navy, Ofstedahl decided he had to get out.*

+ of *"Dan's dead." Ira told me. "And I'm getting out of this god-damned business, before it kills me too."*

6 **get out**

to go to different places in order to meet people and enjoy yourself, especially when you do not often do this: *No wonder you're depressed, Carol, stuck in this tiny flat all day. You need to get out and meet people.* | *It's difficult to get out when you've got young children.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go out**

7 **get out**

if news or information gets out, people hear about it, even though it is supposed to be a secret: *"Mrs. O'Dwyer," I said, "if this gets out, the consequences to the Presidency and the nation would be difficult to imagine."*

word gets out (=people hear a secret) *The gig was supposed to be a secret, but word got out and 2,000 fans turned up at the tiny Manchester venue.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leak out**

8 **get** *sth* **out**

to succeed in saying something when this is very difficult: *She was so upset she couldn't get the words out at first. "I... I saw you, Sherman. I saw you... with her."* | *Ceballos was laughing so much he could barely get his lines out.*

9 **get** *sth* **out**

to succeed in producing something, so that it is available for people to buy: *We have to get the album out in time for Christmas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring out**

10 **get** *sth* **out**

to remove dirt from cloth

+ of *I couldn't get that stain out of your blue dress, Monica.*

get out of

1 **get out of** *sth*

to avoid doing something that you have promised to do or are supposed to do: *I've got a business meeting at 2.00, but I'll see if I can get out of it.*

get out of doing sth *He's not really ill – he's just trying to get out of going to school.*

get out of a contract/agreement etc (=avoid having to obey a legal agreement that you agreed to obey) *a pop singer who went to court to try to get out of his contract with the record company, Sony* | *Once you've signed it, it becomes a legally binding document. You'll need a lawyer to get out of it, believe me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wriggle out of, duck out of** *informal*

2 **get** *sth* **out of** *sb*

to force or persuade someone to tell you or give you something: *The police finally managed to get the information out of him after 8 hours of questioning.* | *We are trying to get more money out of the government to help fund our project.*

3 **get** *sth* **out of** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to gain enjoyment from doing something, or to think that it was useful: *My argument has always been the more work you put into something, the more you get out of it.* | *The course was really good – I got a lot out of it.*

get pleasure/satisfaction out of sth *I get a lot of satisfaction out of what I do for a living.*

4 **get out of** *sth*

to stop a habit, or to stop doing an activity that you did regularly

get out of the habit of doing sth *My mother just couldn't get out of the habit of telling me what to do, even though I was grown up with children of my own.*

get over

1 **get over** *sth/sb*

to begin to feel better after a shock or an experience that upset you

get over sth *"It took me a year to get over Lester's death," Frank Eng recalled many years later. | "Bobby never really got over his war experiences," said Meyer. "He still has nightmares from Vietnam." | It's been a terrible shock, losing her job like this – she needs time to get over it.*

get over sb (=stop feeling upset about a romantic relationship with someone that ended) *She's just getting over a guy from Seattle. They met on vacation, fell in love, bought a house, and then it all went horribly wrong.*

2 **get over** *sth*

to get well again after an illness: *He's still trying to get over that bout of flu he had. | The color had returned to his face, and he appeared to have gotten over his nausea.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recover**

3 **get over** *sth*

to succeed in controlling feelings of fear or nervousness, so that you feel calm again: *"I'm scared of the dark." "Well, you're going to have to get over being scared of the dark." | She discovered that, once you got over the nervousness, it was a terrific thrill to be this high in the air, flying over roads, houses, and cornfields.*

G

4 **get** *sth* **over** **get over** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in communicating ideas or information so that other people understand them

get a point/message/idea etc over *Anti-smoking campaigners are using a series of newspaper adverts to get their message over to the public.*

get over to sb that *We're trying to get over to people that they must drive more slowly when there is ice on the road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get across**

5 **get over** *sth*

to successfully deal with a problem or difficulty etc: *At 600 mph the plane became uncontrollable. We got over this problem by redesigning the wings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around, get round** *BrE*

6 **can't/couldn't get over** *sth*

spoken used to say that you are very surprised or shocked by something: *We went to see a play last night, and it was terrible! I just couldn't get over how bad it was. | "I can't get over the way you look," Deborah exclaimed. "You've lost so much weight!"*

7 **get** *sth* **over**

to do and finish something unpleasant that you do not want to do, but that you must do: *The bridegroom looked as if he just wanted to get the whole thing over as quickly as possible. | "You can make a statement later if you're not well enough." I sat up. "I'd rather get it over, officer."*

get over with

get *sth* **over with** NOT PASSIVE

to do and finish something unpleasant or difficult that you have to do, so that you can feel more relaxed when it is done: *I just want to get these exams over with. | She had to tell Mervyn that their marriage was over. It was no use sitting here – she had to go in and get it over with.*

get sth over and done with (=get something over with) *It's always painful breaking bad news to people, but the sooner we get it over and done with the better.*

get round

1 **get round** *sth*

BrE if you get round a problem, you find a way of dealing with it, especially by avoiding it: *We're having a problem with one of the machines, but don't worry, we'll get round it somehow. | When the train drivers held a one-day strike many commuters got round the problem by taking the day off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around, get over**

2 **get round** *sth*

BrE if you get round a law or rule, you find a legal way of doing something which the law or rule was intended to prevent: *Arms manufacturers found ways of getting round the ban on trade with Iraq. | Skilful lawyers are often able to get round laws intended to regulate particular business activities.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

3 **get round**

BrE if news or information gets round, a lot of people hear about it: *News soon got round that Nick was back in town. | It's a small place so gossip gets round pretty quickly.*

word gets round (=many people hear something) *Word must have got round that the band were staying there, and by evening the hotel was surrounded by screaming fans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around, get about**

4 **get round** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

BrE to gently persuade someone to do what you want by being friendly to them: *Freddie knows exactly how to get round his mum. | If she thinks she can get round me with her soft talk, she can think again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

5 **there's no getting round** *sth*

BrE especially spoken used when talking about an unpleasant fact that cannot be changed or

ignored: *There's no getting round the fact that, even in the church, racism is a problem.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **there's no getting around sth, there's no getting away from sth**

6 **get round to** *sth*

BrE to finally do something that you have been intending to do for a long time: *"Didn't you ever learn to drive?" "I was always meaning to, but somehow I never got round to it."*

get round to doing sth *When the office finally got round to answering my letter, it was too late.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get around to sth**

get through

1 **get through** *sth* | **get** *sb* **through** *sth*

to deal with a difficult experience or period of your life and come to the end of it, or to help someone to do this: *It's going to be hard to get through the next couple of days.* | *"Oh Glen, how will I get through this?" she said, and the tears welled up again, splashing down her face.* | *It was his determination and sense of humour that got him through the crisis.*

2 **get through**

to succeed in talking to someone on the telephone: *Dave's been trying to call them all day, but he just couldn't get through.*

+ to *When I finally got through to the computer helpline, they put me in a queuing system for half an hour.*

3 **get through** *sth*

to finish something that you are doing, especially work or a book that you are reading: *I really want to get through this book – I've only got two more chapters to read.* | *I've got some work to do, but it's fairly straightforward – I should get through it quite quickly.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **finish**

4a **get through** *sth*

to pass a test or examination, or successfully complete a course: *The students' main aim is to get through the course and pass the examinations.* | *Zoe reckons that an exchange visit to France helped her get through her French Higher exam.* | *Getting through law school was tough.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass**

4b **get** *sb/sth* **through** *sth*

to do what is necessary to help someone or something pass a test or examination: *A good school does more than just get its students through their exams.* | *You'll never get that car through its emission test.*

5a **get through** | **get through** *sth*

if a new law or plan gets through, it becomes officially accepted by a parliament, committee etc: *The Council meets on Wednesday, and we're hoping that these proposals will get through.*

get through Congress/Parliament *Baker's tax reforms had a fairly good chance of getting through Congress more or less intact.*

5b **get** *sth* **through** | **get** *sth* **through** *sth*

if a government, president etc gets a new law or plan through, it becomes officially accepted: *The government had intended to get the bill through before Christmas.*

get sth through Congress/Parliament *President Clinton failed to get his healthcare reforms through Congress.* | *It took four years to get the bill through Parliament.*

6 **get through**

to succeed in reaching a place in spite of difficulties: *The Red Cross parcels were not getting through, and prisoners in the camps were starving to death.*

+ to *All the roads are blocked – there's no hope of getting through to Whitby until the weather improves.*

7 **get** *sth* **through**

to succeed in sending food, equipment etc to people in an area that is difficult to reach because of war, bad weather etc: *In order to get supplies through, the Soviet parliament approved special measures allowing the military to take over the railways.*

+ to *The troops' primary role is to get humanitarian aid through to the stricken region.*

8 **get through** *sth*

BrE to spend a lot of money, or use a lot of something such as food or drink: *She gets through at least £200 every weekend – I don't know what she spends it on.* | *You got through those biscuits quickly!*

get through to

1 **get through to** *sb*

to succeed in making someone understand something, especially when this is difficult: *What the hell do you have to do to get through to these stupid people!* | *The report shows that the message about safer sex isn't getting through to teenagers.*

get it through to sb that *You must try to get it through to him that you're not happy, and that you're relationship is in trouble.*

2 **get through to** *sth*

to succeed in reaching the next stage of a game or competition: *The contestant that gets through to the final round has a chance to win $50,000.* | *The local rugby club got through to the semi-finals of a big national competition.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reach**

get to

1 **get to** *sth*

to arrive at a place or reach a particular stage in a process, story etc: *"What time did you get to the hotel?" "Three o'clock in the morning." | Janine looked preoccupied, but she cheered up when we got to the restaurant. | We'd just got to the bit where Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

2 **get to** *sb*

spoken if something or someone gets to you, they make you feel more and more annoyed or upset, even though you try not to let them affect you: *She's always complaining, always so negative about everything – it's really getting to me. | Rachel's having a bad time at work – it's beginning to get to her. | Don't let him get to you – he's just teasing you.*

3 **where has** *sb/sth* **got to?**

spoken used to ask where someone or something is, when they are not where they should be: *I wonder where Sophie's got to? She should be here by now. | Where's my bag got to? It was here on the table a minute ago.*

4 **get to doing** *sth*

non-standard to start doing something, especially without intending to: *We were in the car coming home, and we got to talking about people who were at school with us. | I got to thinking perhaps I ought to try a different kind of job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start**

G

get together

1 **get together**

if two or more people get together, they meet for a social occasion, or in order to discuss or organize something: *We must get together for a drink sometime. | There used to be a group of us – we used to get together and play bridge, and have dinner parties. | I've got a meeting at 3.00, but we can get together and talk about it after that. | The idea is that management and workers will get together and discuss ways of improving staff morale.*

+ with *When are we getting together with Terry and Gretch? Next Saturday?*

* SIMILAR TO: **meet up**

get-together N [C]
a party or informal social occasion: *a family get-together | We're having a get-together on Saturday, if you'd like to come.*

2 **get** *sth* **together**

to collect several things and put them in one place: *Hang on a minute – I just need to get my things together. | I need to go up into the attic and get some stuff together for that yard sale.*

3 **get** *sb* **together**

if you get a group of people together, you arrange for them to meet in order to do something: *Why don't we get everyone together and go bowling or something? | She's going to try to get some people together to work on an arts festival.*

4 **get together** **get it together**

spoken if two people get together or get it together, they start a romantic or sexual relationship: *I always thought those two should get together – they've got a lot in common. | Maybe if Moira and me had been able to get it together again, everything would have been all right.*

+ with *She had a boyfriend in Texas, but when she came back here she got together with Michael.*

5 **get** *sth* **together** **get together** *sth*

spoken to organize or prepare something: *I still haven't got the schedule together, but I am hoping to have it finished by tomorrow. | He's going to be hungry – maybe I'd better get a meal together.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put together**

6 **get yourself together**

to begin to be in control of your life and emotions, so that you can succeed in doing the things you have planned to do: *Amanda was still trying to get herself together, when another crisis devastated her life. | We thought his career was over, but he's managed to get himself together over the past 18 months.*

7 **get it together/get your act together**

to begin to be in control of a situation, and do things in an organized and confident way: *If McCallen gets it together, he can win this race. | Come on, Doyle, get it together, or we'll never solve this case. | When is the United Nations going to get its act together in Bosnia?*

8 **get** *sth* **together**

to succeed in getting enough money for a particular purpose: *"Are you going on vacation this summer?" "Yeah, if I can get the money together." | Money's tight, Joe. Some months I can barely get the rent together.*

get up

1a **get up**

to wake up and get out of your bed, especially in the morning: *What time do you have to get up tomorrow? | She got up, had a bath, took four aspirins, then went to sit in the garden. | I hate getting up in the morning, especially in winter.*

1b **get** *sb* **up**

to make someone wake up and get out of

bed, especially in the morning: *Can you get the kids up? They're going to be late for school.*

2 **get up**

to stand up after you have been sitting or lying down: *Sherman got up and went over to the window.* | *I just got up and went. I was absolutely furious.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up**

3 **get up** *sth* **get** *sth* **up**

BrE to organize something, especially something that involves asking other people to help or take part: *She's getting up a collection for Sue's birthday.* | *The local residents got up a petition, demanding a better bus service.* | *One of the teachers tried to get up a rugby team, but the kids weren't interested.*

* SIMILAR TO: **organize**

4 **get up**

BrE if a wind or storm gets up, it starts and gets stronger: *The wind got up during the night, and blew their tent away.*

5 **get yourself up**

BrE informal to dress in unusual clothes, especially clothes that make you look like someone else, such as a famous person, or a character from a story

+ in/as *Margaret and Mitzi had got themselves up in 1920s dresses, with long beads and those little hats.*

be got up as/like *He was got up as Count Dracula, complete with fangs and a long black cloak.* | *I saw a group of little girls got up like the Spice Girls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

getup N [C]
informal a set of clothes, especially strange or unusual clothes: *There's always one contestant in some ridiculous cowgirl getup, thinking she looks patriotic.*

6 **get** *sth* **up** **get up** *sth*

especially AmE to improve your knowledge of something: *If you're going to Mexico this summer, you'd better get your Spanish up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush up**

7 **get it up**

informal to have an erection (=when a man's sex organ becomes bigger and harder with sexual excitement): *When it came to their wedding night, poor Fred found he couldn't get it up at all.*

get up to

get up to *sth*

BrE to do something, especially something slightly bad or that people do not approve of: *God knows what they get up to while their parents are away.* | *As children, we all got up to tricks like pinching a few apples or knocking on someone's door and running away.*

get with

get with it!

used to tell someone to be more modern and fashionable in the way they think and behave: *"I suppose they'll be playing that awful disco music." "Oh heavens! Don't be so old-fashioned, Granny. Get with it!"*

GIDDY

giddy up!

giddy up!

spoken used to tell a horse to move forwards or go faster

* SIMILAR TO: **gee up!** *BrE spoken old-fashioned*

GINGER

gingered, gingered, gingering

ginger up

1 **ginger** *sth* **up** **ginger up** *sth*

BrE to make something that is dull more exciting by adding new or unusual things: *The play's director tried to ginger things up by adding some dramatic special effects.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spice up, vamp up**

2 **ginger** *sb* **up** **ginger up** *sb*

BrE to encourage people to work harder: *The threat of reorganization appears to have gingered up the workforce.*

GIVE

gave, given, giving

give away

1 **give away** *sth* **give** *sth* **away**

to give something that you do not want or need to someone, without asking them to pay for it: *"Do you still have your old course-books from university?" "No, I've given them all away."*

+ to *Before leaving America she gave away her furniture to her family and friends.*

2 **give away** *sth* **give** *sth* **away**

if a company or store gives away a product, they give it to people without asking them for any payment in order to attract more customers: *They're giving away free glasses with every bottle of wine.* | *Cell-phone networks are giving phones away in order to get subscribers.*

giveaway N [C]
something that a company or store gives to people without asking for payment:

G

There are usually a lot of cheap giveaways on offer at Christmas.

giveaway ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
given free by a company in order to advertise its products: *giveaway dairies*

giveaway prices
prices that are very low: *The shop was selling off all its old stock at giveaway prices.*

3 **give away** *sth* | **give** *sth* **away**

to give something as a prize in a competition: *We have five baseball caps to give away in this week's show – all you have to do is answer one simple question.* | *They're giving away 200 free tickets to see the band on tour.*

4 **give away** *sth* | **give** *sth* **away**

to let someone know about something that should be a secret, especially by mistake: *I don't want to give away the ending. You'll have to see the movie for yourself.* | *In her interview she was careful not to give anything away about her plans for the future.*

give the game away (=make someone realize something that other people wanted to keep a secret) *The thing that gave the game away was when I found one of his socks under our bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reveal**

giveaway N [SINGULAR]
something that makes it easy for you to guess a fact that people are trying to keep secret: *The lipstick on his collar was a bit of a giveaway.*

sth is a dead giveaway *spoken* (=used to emphasize that something makes it very easy to guess a fact that someone wanted to keep secret) *I knew she'd been taking drugs – her eyes were a dead giveaway.*

G

5 **give** *sb* **away**

to accidentally show other people how you really feel, or what you are trying to do, when you are trying to hide this: *Karen was trying to look cool and businesslike, but her face gave her away immediately.*

give yourself away *Most shoplifters give themselves away by constantly looking round for cameras.*

6 **give** *sb* **away**

if you give someone away who is hiding from the police, soldiers etc, you tell the police or soldiers where that person is, or that this is the person they are looking for: *Campbell managed to avoid arrest for several months, until finally someone in his family gave him away to the local police.*

* SIMILAR TO: **betray**

7 **give away** *sth* | **give** *sth* **away**

to let your opponents have an advantage or allow them to win, by playing badly or making silly mistakes: *Arsenal gave away two goals in the first five minutes of the game.* | *Some people in the party have accused him of giving away the election.*

8 **give** *sb* **away** | **give away** *sb*

if a man gives away the woman who is getting married, he takes her to the front of the church to the man she is going to marry, and gives permission for her to marry: *The bride was given away by her uncle, Andrew Johnson.*

give back

1 **give back** *sth* | **give** *sth* **back**

to give something back to the person who owns it or who gave it to you: *If the wedding is cancelled, do I have to give back the ring?*

+ to *The government is giving back nine million pounds to Oxford City Council, after making a mistake in the housing budget.*

give sb back sth *Give him back his hat!*

give sb sth back *Mom! Tell Josh to give me my doll back!*

* SIMILAR TO: **return** *formal*

2 **give** *sth* **back** | **give back** *sth*

to make it possible for someone to have a particular quality, ability, or freedom that they used to have in the past, but they lost

+ to *The protesters are calling for the government to give power back to the people.*

give sb back sth *A little warm food and rest will give you back some strength.*

give sb sth back *The doctors are hoping the operation will give Murphy his sight back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **restore**

give in

1 **give in**

to finally agree to something you were unwilling to agree to before, especially after someone has spent a long time arguing with you or trying to persuade you: *With a sigh, she gave in. "Okay, Ellie, we'll do it your way this time."* | *In the end he gave in and paid her the full price for the painting.*

+ to *The Russian government has so far refused to give in to the terrorists' demands.*

2 **give in**

to accept that you have been defeated and stop competing or fighting: *Arsenal refused to give in, and scored three goals in the second half to win the game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up**

3 **give in** *sth* | **give** *sth* **in**

BrE to give something such as an official letter or a piece of written work to someone in a position of authority: *The next day Davies gave in his resignation.* | *I still haven't*

finished my homework yet, and we're supposed to give it in tomorrow morning.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hand in**

give in to

give in to *sth*

if you give in to a feeling that you want to do something, you allow yourself to do it, especially after trying not to for a long time: *In the end he gave in to temptation and lit up his first cigarette of the day.* | *Lady Chatterley spends much more time with the gamekeeper, and finally they both give in to their desires.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **yield to**

give of

1 **give of yourself/your time/your money etc**

formal to do things for other people in a generous way, especially when it involves your own time or money, and without expecting them to do anything for you: *He thanked all the club members who had given of their time in order to make the show a success.* | *If you want to be a teacher you have to be prepared to give of yourself.*

2 **give of your best**

formal to do something as well as you are able to do it: *Companies should try to create an environment in which employees can give of their best.* | *It was a pretty mediocre performance – I didn't feel that any of the actors really gave of their best.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give your best**

give off

1 **give off** *sth* **give** *sth* **off**

to produce something such as a smell, heat, light, energy, gas, or a sound: *The flowers gave off a sweet scent.* | *the enormous amount of energy which is given off by nuclear reactions*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **produce, give out**

2 **give off** *sth*

if someone gives off a particular quality, they seem to have that quality from the way they look or behave: *Felicity gave off an impression of light and warmth.* | *Robert's father gave off an air of superiority and smugness.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give out, exude** *formal*

give onto

give onto *sth*

BrE if a door, window, room, garden etc gives onto a place, it leads to that place or you can see that place from it: *The sitting-room gives onto a garden full of fruit trees.* | *Our apartment gave onto a balcony that overlooked the sea.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **open onto/on to**

give out

1 **give out** *sth* **give** *sth* **out**

to give something to a lot of people, especially a large number of things or all of them: *Protestors were giving out leaflets in front of the embassy.* | *Police in Paris gave out over 100,000 tickets for driving offences last year.* | *"Are there any more plates?" "No. I've given them all out."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hand out**

2 **give out** *sth* **give** *sth* **out**

to tell people information, especially publicly or officially: *You shouldn't give out your credit card details over the Internet.* | *The Foundation gives out free advice on pregnancy and contraception.*

be given out (=be announced) *The results will be given out at the end of the show.*

3 **give out**

if something such as a part of your body or a machine gives out, it stops working because it has been used too much, or it is old or damaged: *She screamed so much that in the end her voice gave out.* | *The light's starting to go very faint. I think the batteries have given out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pack up**

4 **give out**

if a supply of something gives out, there is no more left because it has all been used: *How much longer before the fuel gives out?* | *Her patience finally gave out and she started yelling at the kids to be quiet.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **run out**

5 **give out** *sth* **give** *sth* **out**

to produce something such as a smell, heat, light, energy, gas, or a sound: *Oil stoves give out a lot of heat.* | *As she bent down, her knee gave out a cracking sound.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **produce, give off**

6 **give out**

if someone gives out a particular quality, they seem to have that quality from the way they look or behave: *Gilles gave out an air of confidence and calm authority*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give off, exude** *formal*

7 **give out a message/signal**

to make people have a particular idea about something by what you say or do: *I'm worried that if I don't punish the children, it may give out the wrong message.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **send out**

give over

give over!

a *BrE spoken informal* used to tell someone to

be quiet or to stop doing something that is annoying: *Give over, you two! If there's any more trouble, you'll both go straight to bed.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cut it out!/cut that out!** *spoken informal*

b *BrE spoken informal* used to tell someone that you do not believe what they have just said and that you think it is very surprising: *"Susan says she and Curly are getting engaged." "Give over! They've hardly known each other five minutes!"*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **you're having me on** *BrE spoken informal*, **you're putting me on** *AmE spoken informal*

give over to

1 **be given over to** *sth*

to be used only for a particular purpose or activity: *Large areas of the countryside are being given over to ugly out-of town superstores. | Tuesday afternoons were usually given over to sports and leisure activities. | The whole of the first session is given over to an interview with Edmont Couchot, Professor of Arts at the University of Paris.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be devoted to, be taken up by sb/sth**

2 **give yourself over to** *sth*

give your life over to *sth*

to spend all your time and energy doing something or thinking about something: *She had given her life over to caring for Jane. | In his youth Green gave himself over to the pursuit of pleasure.*

3 **give** *sth/sb* **over to** *sb*

to allow another person, organization etc to have control of something or someone and be responsible for them: *He gave the boy over to the care of the local authority. | Control over the country's finances was given over to parliament.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

give up

1 **give up** *sth* **give** *sth* **up** NOT PASSIVE

to stop doing something that you did regularly, for example a job or a sport: *She gave up her job at the nursing home and moved to London. | I used to play a lot of football, but I had to give it up after the accident.*

give up doing sth *Teri's given up going to New Year's Eve parties after her unfortunate experience last year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop, quit**

2 **give up** *sth* **give** *sth* **up** **give up** NOT PASSIVE

to stop smoking, drinking etc because you think it is bad or unhealthy

give up doing sth *Vanessa's been feeling much better since she gave up smoking.*

give up sth *He gave up alcohol when he became a Muslim.*

give sth up *David's drug habit is slowly killing him – Dr Ryan could help him give it up.*

give up *"Cigarette?" "No thanks, I'm trying to give up."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop, quit**

3 **give up** **give up** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to stop trying to do something, especially because it is too difficult: *They searched for the ball for a while, but eventually they gave up and went home.*

give up doing sth *After about ten minutes I gave up trying to explain it to her.*

I give up *spoken* (=used to say that you cannot guess the answer to a question or joke) *"How much d'you think this suit cost?" "I don't know. $200, $500 ... $1000? Oh, I give up!"*

give up the struggle (=stop trying to do something that is very difficult) *a crisis that brought him to the point where he finally gave up the struggle and resigned*

4 **give up** *sth*

to let someone else have something that is yours, especially when you do not really want to: *Lack of money forced Salah to give up his London apartment. | The Confederate Army refused to give up any of the territory they had won.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **relinquish** *formal*

5 **give yourself up**

to allow the police or enemy soldiers to make you a prisoner when they have been trying to catch you: *General Lee sent a message to the rebels, urging them to give themselves up.*

+ to *Two of the escaped prisoners have given themselves up to the police.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **surrender**

6 **give up** *sth* **give** *sth* **up**

to use some of your time to help other people or to help something succeed, instead of for your own enjoyment or advantage

+ to do sth *We should like to thank the mayor for giving up his valuable time to support our fundraising campaign. | Fiona gave up all her weekends to be with her mother, who was now seriously ill.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sacrifice**

7 **give up hope**

to stop hoping that something good will happen or that things will get better: *Just*

when they had almost given up hope, Jenny became pregnant.

give up hope of doing sth *When the factory closed, most of the workers gave up hope of ever getting another job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **despair**

8 **give up** *sb* | **give** *sb* **up** NOT PASSIVE

to end a friendship or romantic relationship with someone, even though you do not want to: *He's started going out with Rita, but he doesn't want to give up this other girl!*

9 **give up** *sb* | **give** *sb* **up**

to give your child to someone else so that the child legally becomes part of that person's family

give sb up for adoption *I refused to give up my baby for adoption – he was mine.*

10 **give** *sb* **up for dead/lost**

to begin to believe that someone is dead and stop looking for them: *Three Americans who had been given up for dead were found alive yesterday. | No trace of the boat could be found and the crew were given up for lost.*

11 **let's give it up (for** *sb* **)!**

spoken informal used to tell people to hit their hands together in order to show that they have enjoyed something, or approve of someone: *Come on, everybody, let's give it up for the Spice Girls!*

* SIMILAR TO: **let's have a round of applause for sb**

12 **give** *sb* **up** NOT PASSIVE

spoken to stop expecting someone to arrive: *Where have you been? We'd almost given you up.*

give up on

1 **give up on** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to stop trying to make something happen or succeed: *Never give up on your dreams – the things you really want to do. | In 1991 the Russians finally gave up on their Marxist strategy.*

give up doing sth *By 4 am I'd given up on trying to sleep, so I got up to have a shower.*

* SIMILAR TO: **abandon**

2 **give up on** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to stop hoping that someone will improve or do what you want them to: *He'd been in a coma for six months, and the doctors had almost given up on him. | You've left the tickets behind? I give up on you, Henry, I really do.*

* SIMILAR TO: **despair of**

give up to

1 **give yourself up to** *sth*

literary to allow a strong feeling of pleasure, desire etc to completely fill your mind: *When, at last, we were together, we gave ourselves up to the pleasures of love.*

2 **be given up to** *sth*

if a period of time is given up to an activity, all of it is used for that activity: *The afternoons were given up to sport and recreation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be given over to**

GLAM

glammed, glammed, glamming

glam up

glam *sth/sb* **up** | **glam up** *sth/sb*

BrE informal to make something or someone look more attractive, especially by adding decorations or putting on special clothes: *A plain dress can be glammed up with gold sequins.*

glam yourself up *We glammed ourselves up and went on down to the film premiere.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doll up**

GLANCE

glanced, glanced, glancing

glance off

glance off *sth* | **glance off**

if a beam of light or a moving object glances off a surface, it hits it at an angle and then moves away in another direction: *Light from the setting sun glanced off the metal buildings. | A bullet struck the side of their car and glanced off.*

G

GLAZE

glazed, glazed, glazing

glaze over

glaze over

if someone's eyes glaze over, they start to look bored or tired: *Whenever anyone tried to explain the statistics to Mr Vernon, his eyes would start to glaze over.*

GLOM

glommed, glommed, glomming

glom onto

1 **glom onto** *sth*

AmE if one thing gloms onto another, the first thing fastens itself firmly to the second: *The researchers found that the antibodies glom onto the virus and destroy it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **latch onto**

2 **glom onto** *sb*

AmE to try to spend time with someone and become friends with them, especially when they do not want you to do this: *Lisa glommed onto Rita and her friends and followed them wherever they went.*

* SIMILAR TO: **latch onto**

GLORY

gloried, gloried, glorying

glory in

glory in *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to enjoy something very much and feel unreasonably proud about it: *Her brother was not ashamed of his violent behaviour. On the contrary, he gloried in it.*

glory in doing sth *How he gloried in retelling his adventures!*

* SIMILAR TO: **revel in**

GLOSS

glossed, glossed, glossing

gloss over

gloss over *sth* **gloss** *sth* **over**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to deliberately avoid talking about unpleasant facts, or to say as little as possible about them: *There were problems in our relationship that couldn't be glossed over.* | *a skilful speech that had glossed over all the embarrassing details*

GLOW

glowed, glowed, glowing

glow with

glow with pleasure/pride etc

to look very happy because you are pleased, proud etc: *Parker glowed with pleasure at the thought of all the money he was going to make.*

GLUE

be glued to

be glued to the television/screen etc

informal to be watching the television etc with all your attention or for a long time: *The kids are glued to the TV all day.*

GNAW

gnawed, gnawed, gnawing

gnaw at

1 **gnaw at** *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

to make someone feel continuously worried, frightened, or uncomfortable: *Feelings of guilt gnawed at him.* | *The problem had been gnawing at his mind for months.*

2 **gnaw at** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to gradually harm or damage something: *the poisonous gas gnawing at your lungs*

gnaw away

gnaw away *sth* **gnaw** *sth* **away**

NOT PASSIVE

to gradually destroy something: *The disease steadily gnaws away the body's defences.*

GO

went, gone, going

go about

1 **go about** *sth*

if you go about something in a particular way, you start to do it or deal with it in that way: *Growing orchids is not so difficult, providing you go about it in the right way.*

how do you go about doing sth? (=what is the best way to start doing or dealing with something) *How do I go about finding out about the different courses available?* | *Joe had always wanted to get into politics, but he had no idea how to go about it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set about, tackle**

2 **go about your business/work/daily life etc**

to continue doing your job or your activities in the usual way, often after something unusual has happened: *Even after last night's air attack, the people of the town are going about their business as usual.* | *I watched Frank going about his work, and wondered how to tell him the news.*

3 **go about doing** *sth*

BrE if someone goes about doing or saying something, they do it a lot, especially when it is annoying or unpleasant for other people: *Mima went about saying that it was all my fault.* | *You shouldn't go about spreading malicious gossip.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around/round doing sth**

4 **go about**

BrE to dress or behave in a particular way, especially regularly or over a period of time

+ in *In the days that followed, Liza went about in a daze, not knowing what she*

should do. | You can't go about in shorts and sandals at the office – you should wear a suit.

* SIMILAR TO: **go around/round**

5 **go about** *sth* **go about**

BrE to move or travel around a place, going from one part of it to another: *She went about the room, putting everything back in its place. | Before an election, party leaders usually go about from town to town making speeches.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around/round**

6 **go about** **go about** *sth*

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if a story or piece of information is going about, a lot of people are talking about it and telling other people, especially when it is not certain that it is true: *That story's been going about the office for weeks now and it's absolute rubbish!*

+ that *Rumours have been going about that the couple are planing to get married.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around/round, circulate** *formal*

7 **go about** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if an illness is going about, a lot of people are getting it: *At least three people are away with flu – there's a lot of it going about at the moment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around/round**

8 **a ship/boat goes about**

BrE if a ship or boat goes about, it turns around and starts to go in the opposite direction: *The boat went about and headed back towards the land.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn around/round**

go about with ALSO go about together *especially BrE*

go about with *sb* **go about together**

BrE to spend a lot of time with someone and go to different places together, and have a friendly or romantic relationship with them: *Ed's going about with a girl who's a lot younger than he is. | Didn't you and Frank use to go about together when you were at university?*

go after

1 **go after** *sb/sth*

to follow or chase someone, in order to catch them, attack them, or talk to them: *She looked so upset. Do you think I should go after her?*

* SIMILAR TO: **follow**

2 **go after** *sth*

to try to get something, especially a job or a particular type of business: *I've decided to go after that job in Ohio. | The firm now wants to go after the Japanese market. | Tobacco companies are going after teenage smokers in a big way.*

go against

1 **go against** *sth*

if something goes against an idea, principle, or rule, it seems wrong or very different from it, or breaks that rule: *Her parents didn't want her to get a divorce. It went against their religious beliefs. | Einstein's theory went against all the accepted views about how the universe worked. | The Russians claimed that intervening in Kosovo went against the principle of respecting national sovereignty.*

it goes against the grain (=used to say that something is very different from what you believe or think you should do, and you do not want to do it): *It goes against the grain to tell a complete stranger everything about your private life.*

2 **go against** *sth/sb*

to not do what someone has asked or advised you to do, or to do something different to it

go against sb's advice/wishes/orders etc *He went against his doctor's advice and started work the following week.*

go against sb *She never expected her mother to go against her father like that.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore**

3 **go against** *sb*

if a court case, decision, vote, result etc goes against you, you lose or you do not get the result that you want: *Our lawyer had warned us that the case might go against us. | De Gaulle had made it clear that he would resign if the vote went against him.*

things go against you *spoken* (=used to say that events happen in a way that is bad or unsuccessful for you) *By the end of the 1980s, things started to go against us, and we lost a lot of money.*

go ahead

1 **go ahead**

to do something that you have been planning or preparing to do, especially after considering it and trying to decide if you should do it

+ with *In 1964 the British and French governments announced that they had decided to go ahead with the tunnel. | Last night railway workers looked likely to go ahead with their strike.*

go ahead and do sth *After two years of marriage, we decided to go ahead and have a baby. | In the end, the newspaper went ahead and published the story.*

the go-ahead
if someone gives you the go-ahead to do something they give you official permission to start doing it: *The movie was given the go-ahead and production started in May.*

2 **go ahead**

if an event that has been planned goes ahead, it takes place, especially in spite of problems or opposition: *The match went ahead, despite the terrible weather conditions.* | *Mr Connelly went into hospital, but was told that his operation could not go ahead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take place**

3 **go ahead!**

a *spoken* used when giving someone permission to do something, for example smoke, open the window etc, after they have asked you if they can do it: *"Do you mind if I smoke?" "No, go ahead."*

b *spoken* used when encouraging someone to start doing something: *Go ahead, Matt, we're all dying to hear your story.*

c *spoken* used when telling someone in a threatening way that you do not care if they do something: *"If you don't get off my land, I'll take you to court." "Go ahead!"*

4 **go ahead**

to go somewhere before or in front of other people who you are with: *You go ahead and we'll catch up with you later.* | *I'll go ahead in my car, because I know the way.*

G

go along

1 **go along**

to go to a place or an event, especially in order to meet and talk to people: *An old friend asked me to come to dinner, so I went along and really enjoyed myself.* | *They're having a party at Patrick's house. Do you feel like going along?*

2 **do** *sth* **as you go along**

if you do something as you go along, you do it while you are doing something else – used especially to say that someone decides how to do something while they are doing it, without planning or preparing it: *I'm sure she was making her speech up while she went along.* | *You can't just make the rules of the game as you go along!* | *You can't really teach acting – you tend to learn as you go along.*

3 **be going along**

if something is going along in a particular way, it is progressing in that way: *They've been going out together for six months, and everything seems to be going along quite nicely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come along**

go along with

go along with *sth/sb*

to accept a particular idea or plan, or to agree with someone about something, especially because it might upset someone or cause trouble if you do not: *I wasn't very keen on the idea, but I went along with it just to keep everyone happy.* | *Chirac fears that if he goes along with Kohl and his policies, it could threaten his own political future.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall in with**

go around
ALSO **go round** *BrE*

● In British English, people usually use **go round**. In American English, people only use **go around**.

1 **go around/round**

to go to see someone for a short time, especially at the place where they live: *I think I'll go round and see Jim on my way home tonight.*

+ to *Marie went around to Bella's place, to try and persuade her to come to the party.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go over**

2 **go around/round** *sth*

to move or travel around a place going from one part of it to another: *A detective came in and went around the house to make notes.* | *I spent the morning going around the city taking photographs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about** *BrE*

3 **go around/round** *sth* **go around/round**

to go to a number of different places of the same type, one after the other: *Mr and Mrs Taylor went around the shops, ordering what they thought was necessary.* | *An inspector came and went round all the classrooms.*

+ to *We went round to all the clubs, but Des wasn't in any of them.*

4 **go around/round doing** *sth*

to say or do something frequently or regularly, especially when it is annoying or unpleasant for other people: *You can't go around accusing people of things like that.* | *Paul's been going round telling everyone about my relationship with Danny.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about**

5 **go around/about**

to dress or behave in a particular way, especially regularly or over a period of time: *When you're the boss, you have to dress properly – you can't go round in jeans.* | *I can't see anything without my glasses – I might as well go around with my eyes shut.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about**

6 **go around/round** **go around/round** *sth*

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a story or piece of information is going around, a lot of people are talking about it and telling other people, especially when it is not certain to be true: *I don't usually pay any attention to the gossip going around at work.*

+ that *There's been a rumour going round that they're planning to close the factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about** *BrE*, **circulate** *informal*

7 **enough/plenty etc to go around**

if there is enough food, drink, work etc to go around, there is enough for everyone to have some: *Do you think we've got enough pizza to go round?* | *Builders are really having a hard time these days – there just isn't enough work to go around.*

8 **go around/round** **go around/round** *sth*

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if an illness is going around, a lot of people are getting it: *There's so much flu going around – I hope you don't get it.* | *A particularly unpleasant virus was going around the school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about** *BrE*

go around with ALSO go around together *especially BrE* ALSO go round with/together *BrE*

go around/round with *sb*

go around/round together

to spend a lot of time with someone and go to different places together, and have a friendly or romantic relationship with them: *Do you remember Laura? She's going around with Ralph at the moment.* | *There was a gang of about six of us who went round together all the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about with**

go at

1 **go at** *sth*

informal if you go at something in a particular way, you start to do it or deal with it in that way, especially with a lot of energy or enthusiasm

go at it *The women all seemed to really enjoy their work, and went at it with great enthusiasm and cheerfulness.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tackle**

2 **go at** *sb*

informal to start to fight, attack, or argue with someone: *Sophie went at him with a kitchen knife.* | *We'd had to listen to the two of them going at each other all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

go away

1 **go away**

to leave a place or a person: *Go away and let me get some sleep!* | *He pushed the letter under the door and went away.*

2 **go away**

to leave your home in order to spend some time somewhere else, especially for a holiday: *We're going away to France for a week.* | *Dad often had to go away on business.* | *I hated it when I first went away to college.*

3 **go away**

if a problem, pain, or something unpleasant goes away, it disappears: *After about an hour, the pain started to go away.*

sth goes away by itself (=it disappears without anyone doing anything) *Traffic problems won't just go away by themselves – it's up to us to take action.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disappear**

go back

1 **go back**

to return to a place where you have been before, or to the place where you were until recently: *They left Africa in 1962, and they never went back.* | *I have to go back home at the end of the month.*

+ to *We went back to the hotel for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

2 **go back**

if something goes back to a time in the past, it was started or had its origin then

+ to *Parts of the castle here go back to the twelfth century.* | *It's a type of comedy that goes back to the early days of the cinema.*

sth goes back a long way (=it started a long time ago and has existed for a long time) *They're a very old family – their name goes back a long way.*

* SIMILAR TO: **date back**

3 **go back** **go back** *sth*

to consider or discuss things that happened at a time in the past, especially a long time ago: *Let's go back a few million years and look at the time of the dinosaurs.*

+ to *To understand psychiatric problems, you often have to go back to the patient's childhood.*

4 **you can't go back/there's no going back**

if you can't go back or there's no going back,

you cannot change your situation back to how it used to be: *Are you sure you want to do this? If we sell the house, there's no going back.* | *"Once you're part of our gang, you're always part of it," grinned Marley. "You can't go back.*

5 **go back**

if schools or students go back, the schools open and the students start studying again after the holidays: *When do the schools go back?*

+ to *The kids go back to school in the first week of September.*

SEE **go back to**

● OPPOSITE: **break up**

6 **go back**

if something that you have bought or borrowed goes back, you take it back to the place where you got it, for example because you want to change it, or you have finished using it: *I think these jeans will have to go back – they're a bit too small.* | *Don't forget the car has to go back tomorrow – we only hired it for a week.*

7 **go back**

if workers go back, they start working again after a strike. A strike is a period of time when workers refuse to work in order to try to get more money, better working conditions etc: *The miners say they won't go back unless they get more money.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to work**

8 **go back a long way/many years etc**

if two people go back a long way, for many years etc, they have known each other for a long time: *Annie and Richard go back a long way – at least fifteen years.*

9 **the clocks go back**

when the clocks go back in the autumn, the time officially changes so that it is one hour earlier than it was before: *The clocks go back some time in October, don't they?*

● OPPOSITE: **the clocks go forward**

go back on

1 **go back on** *sth*

to not do what you have promised, agreed, or said you would do: *Everyone was hoping that Milosevich wouldn't go back on his promises.* | *The German Finance Minister warned Moscow against going back on its policy of reform.* | *Her father has already said he won't let us have any of his money, and I can't see him going back on his decision.*

go back on your word (=not do what you have promised or agreed to do) *"You can trust me," said Professor Higgins. "I never go back on my word."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **renege on** *formal*

2 **go back on** *sth*

to change what you said before, or claim that you never said it: *One of the witnesses has gone back on her original story, and now says she may have been mistaken.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **change**

go back over

go back over *sth*

to examine, consider, or repeat something again: *The judge went back over all the evidence at the end of a trial.* | *Would you mind going back over the rules for me one more time?* | *Someone ought to go back over the contents of these boxes and label them.*

go back to

1 **go back to** *sth*

to start to do something again that you were doing before, or used to do in the past

go back to work/school/university etc *After the operation, it was six weeks before I could go back to work.*

go back to sleep/bed *I tried to go back to sleep, but I couldn't stop thinking.*

go back to doing sth *I'd hate to go back to living abroad now.* | *After his career in showbusiness came to an end, he went back to being a taxi-driver.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

2 **go back to** *sth*

to return to a situation or state that used to exist before something started or happened: *It will be a long time before things start to go back to normal after the war.* | *When the project went wrong, we had to go back to the beginning and start again.* | *Can't we just go back to being good friends?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **revert to, return to**

3 **go back to** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

if you go back to someone that you used to have a sexual relationship with or were married to, you start to have a relationship with them again: *Robin loves me. He'll never go back to his wife now.*

4 **go back to** *sth*

to start talking about or considering a particular point or subject again, especially in a discussion or meeting: *Can we just go back to Alan's point for a minute?* | *I'd like to go back to the first part of the film again.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

go before

1 **have gone before**

to have happened or existed before – use this when you are comparing something with

what happened or existed before: *The cotton industry created a form of society that was different from any that had gone before.*

what has gone before *In many ways this programme improves on what has gone before.* | *The end of the match bore no resemblance to most of what had gone before.*

2 | **go before** | *sb* |

if someone or something goes before a judge, committee etc, the judge etc hears and considers the information concerning them in order to make a decision or judgement about them: *Mr Holt's case went before Judge Hitz.* | *The proposal will go before the Planning Committee at their next meeting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come before**

go beyond

| **go beyond** | *sth* |

to be much better, more serious, more advanced etc than something else: *The book's success went beyond anything we had expected.* | *She didn't just feel unhappy – it went beyond that.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exceed**

go by

1 | **go by** |

if time goes by, it passes: *Twenty years had gone by since I last saw him.* | *As time went by, our fears for her safety increased.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass**

bygone ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
especially literary used to describe a period of time as one that existed a long time ago: *The beautiful old buildings reminded me of a bygone age.*

2 | **go by** |

to move past you, especially when you are not moving: *I sat down at an open-air cafe, and watched the people going by.* | *Several number nine buses went by, one after the other.*

3 | **go by** | *sth* |

AmE to stop at a place for a short time, usually to get something: *We have to go by the store on the way home to get something for dinner.* | *"Where were you?" "I just went by Jason's to pick up my jacket."*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop by, drop by** *informal*

4 | **go by** | *sth* |

to use a particular thing when you are making a judgment or when deciding what you should do: *You can't go by that old map. It's completely out of date.* | *I know she looks very attractive, but you shouldn't only go by appearances.*

if sth's anything to go by (=used when saying that something is likely to be true, because something else is true) *It should be a great movie, if Kubrick's other work is anything to go by.*

5 | **go by** | *sth* |

to obey the rules of something: *There was one point in the game when he certainly wasn't going by the rules.*

go by the book (=be very careful to obey all the rules exactly) *There is a fixed procedure for making a complaint, and we prefer it if you go by the book.*

6 | **let** | *sth* | **go by** |

to deliberately ignore or forget about someone's remarks or actions, instead of getting upset about them or reacting angrily: *You have to try and remember the nice things people say, and let the others go by.* | *"I'll let it go by this time," the teacher said, "but I don't want it to happen again."*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore, overlook**

go down

1 | **go down** | *sth* |

to move along a street, passage etc in order to get somewhere: *If you go down the street and turn right, you'll see the station in front of you.* | *I went down the corridor and knocked on the staffroom door.*

2 | **go down** | | **go down** | *sth* |

to go to a particular place near where you live, or the one that you usually go to

+ to *Why don't we go down to the town this afternoon?* | *The kids have gone down to the river.*

go down the shops/pub/village etc *especially spoken* *I thought I'd go down the shops with Doreen.* | *My Dad always used to go down the pub after dinner.*

3 | **go down** |

to visit or travel to a place – use this especially when the place is further south or is in the country: *At weekends, Wright used to go down and stay with his father in Mississippi.*

+ to *Three days a week Kate went down to Camberwell to teach at the School of Arts and Crafts.*

● OPPOSITE: **go up**

4 | **go down** |

to reach as far as a particular point or place

+ to *The road doesn't go down to the beach – we'll have to walk from here.* | *It was a beautiful light room, with windows that went down to the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

G

5 **go down**

if a price or the level of something goes down, it becomes lower: *The price of fruit goes down in the summer, when there's plenty of it about.* | *In parts of the country, the level of violent crime has been going down.*

+ to *When I came out of hospital, my weight had gone down to eight stone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop, decrease**

● OPPOSITE: **go up**

6 **go down**

BrE if the standard or quality of something goes down, it becomes worse: *The standard of the food in the canteen has gone down a lot recently.*

things have gone down *Things have really gone down at the school since the old head teacher left.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **deteriorate** *formal*, **go downhill**

7 **go down**

if a computer goes down, or the telephone lines go down, they stop working because of a fault: *Make sure you save all your work on screen, just in case the computers go down.* | *The lines had gone down in the storm, and we were cut off for days.*

8 **go down well/badly etc**

if something that someone says or does goes down well, badly etc people react to it well or badly etc: *The band's given several performances around the country and they went down really well.* | *I could see at once that my comments had gone down badly.*

9 **go down well/nicely etc**

spoken if food or drink goes down well, nicely etc you enjoy eating or drinking it: *A long cold drink would go down very nicely, thank you.*

10 **go down**

when the sun goes down at the end of the day, it gradually gets lower in the sky until it disappears: *It was six o'clock, and the sun was going down for the day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set**

● OPPOSITE: **come up, rise**

11 **go down**

to fall to the ground, especially because of an accident or injury: *The leading horse went down at the last jump.* | *They were doing well until their best player went down with a badly sprained left ankle.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall down**

12 **go down on your knees/on all fours**

to get into a kneeling position, or in a position with your hands and knees on the floor: *Did he go down on his knees and ask you to marry him?* | *I quickly went down on all fours and started to crawl towards the door.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get down on your knees/on all fours**

13 **go down**

if a ship or boat goes down, it sinks: *Then our small boat began to go down and we found ourselves in the river.* | *The Titanic went down in 1912 in mid-Atlantic.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sink**

14 **go down**

if a plane goes down, it crashes to the ground: *Gessler and his crew lost their lives when their aircraft went down between Lampedusa and Malta.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crash**

15 **the lights go down**

if lights go down in a theatre, cinema etc, they are turned off or made less bright so that the show can begin: *The lights went down as the orchestra started to play.*

16 **go down**

especially BrE to lose a game against another team or player

+ to/against *At Wimbledon, Lleyton Hewitt went down 6–4, 7–5 to Greg Rusedski.* | *United went down 2–0 against Bolton.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lose**

17 **go down**

BrE to move down to a lower group of teams or players who play against each other: *London Scottish have to win three of the remaining four matches if they want to be sure of not going down.*

+ to *At the end of the season, five clubs went down to the second division.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be relegated**

● OPPOSITE: **go up** *BrE*, **be promoted**

18 **go down**

if a tyre, balloon etc goes down, the air goes out of it: *It looks like the front tyre has gone down – I'll have to pump it up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **deflate** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **inflate** *formal*

19 **go down**

if a swelling goes down, it disappears. A swelling is an area on your skin which has become bigger because of an injury, illness, or infection: *If you rest your leg, the swelling should go down soon.* | *The dentist said it'll take a few hours before my face goes down again.*

● OPPOSITE: **swell up**

20 **go down**

BrE informal to be sent to prison: *It was a horrible crime and the boys involved deserved to go down.*

G

go down for life/10 years etc *Scott's wanted for murder. If they catch him, he'll go down for life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be sent to prison, be sent down** *BrE informal*

21 **go down**

BrE old-fashioned to leave university after you have finished studying there or at the end of a term. A term is one of the periods into which the school year is divided: *The students have gone down for Easter.*

+ from *Brian got a job in the City of London when he went down from Oxford.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come down** *BrE old-fashioned*

● OPPOSITE: **go up** *BrE old-fashioned*

22 **go down**

AmE informal to happen: *I'll never understand exactly what went down the night my husband left me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **happen**

23 **what's going down?**

AmE informal used as a greeting when you meet someone: *Hey buddy! What's going down?*

* SIMILAR TO: **how are you?**

24 **go down**

informal to touch someone's sexual organs with your mouth and tongue in order to give them pleasure

+ on *an explicit shot of the artist going down on his girlfriend*

* SIMILAR TO: **perform oral sex**

go down as

go down as *sth* X

to be remembered or recorded as being a particular thing or type of person: *David Robinson is sure to go down as one of the greatest ever basketball players.*

go down in history as sth *Cardinal Hume will go down in history as a truly holy man.*

go down with

go down with *sth* X

especially BrE to get a particular illness, especially one that you catch from other people and which is not very serious: *Several people at work have gone down with flu. | It was a nice meal, but the day after I went down with an upset stomach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contract** *formal*

go for

1 **go for** *sth*

to try to get, win, or achieve something: *What sort of job are you going for, Tim? | Suleymonglu is going for his third consecutive Olympic gold medal.*

go for it! (=used to encourage someone to try to do or get something) *If it sounds like a good deal, go for it!*

sb really goes for it (=used to say that someone tries as hard as they can in order to get something) *spoken She's incredibly ambitious. If she sees a chance for promotion, she really goes for it.*

2 **go for** *sth*

to choose a particular thing because you think it is better or more suitable: *Go for the black dress – it looks much better on you than the blue one. | I've got to drive home, so I'd better go for something non-alcoholic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choose**

3 **go for** *sth/sb* NOT PROGRESSIVE

informal to like a particular type of thing or person: *What kind of girls do you go for? | I don't normally go for bright colours.*

4 **go for** *sth*

to be sold or available to buy for a particular price: *How much did the painting go for in the end? | Houses in Notting Hill now go for well over £1 million.*

5 **go for** *sb*

informal to attack someone physically or criticize them very severely: *Ben lifted his arm and for a second I thought he was going to go for me. | She always used to go for him in meetings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

6 **that/the same goes for** *sb/sth*

used to say that the same thing is also true about someone or something else: *I've always hated living in towns. Fortunately the same goes for my husband too.*

7 **have a lot going for you**

informal if someone or something has a lot going for them, they have a lot of advantages or good qualities: *We've always thought that the Austrian skiing resorts have a lot going for them.*

have everything going for you *It was so sad. She had everything going for her, and then she had that terrible accident.*

8 **go for** *sth*

if a particular amount of something, especially money, goes for a specific purpose, it is used for that purpose: *About 38% of the Department of Energy's budget goes for research and development. | $54 million went for resettlement of refugees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** *BrE*

G

9 **go for your gun/knife etc**

to move your hand quickly towards your gun, knife etc in order to use it to attack someone: *The police officer thought he was going for his gun, and shot him through the chest.*

go forward

1 **go forward**

if something has been planned to happen goes forward, it starts to happen or starts to make progress: *The project can only go forward if we are able to get further financial support.* | *It was argued that the trial should not go forward while President Clinton was still in office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go ahead**

2 **go forward**

if someone or something's name goes forward for a job, prize etc, their name is suggested for it and they are considered for it: *Six names went forward for the position of chairman, caused by the decision of Mr Ted Leadbitter to retire.*

+ to *The building is among twenty-nine regional winners which will go forward for national awards later this year.*

3 **go forward**

to compete in the next stage of a competition after winning the previous stage

+ to *The winner of the competition will go forward to the national final.*

* SIMILAR TO: **progress**

4 **the clocks go forward**

when the clocks go forward in the spring, the time officially changes so that it is one hour later than it was before: *The clocks go forward this Saturday.*

● OPPOSITE: **the clocks go back**

go forward to

go forward to *sth*

if a suggestion, idea, court case etc goes forward to an official group of people, it is taken to them so that they can consider it and make a decision about it: *Our recommendations went forward to the Finance Committee.* | *Proposals for the licensing system will now go forward to the Ministry for approval.* | *The case then went forward to the European Court of Human Rights.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go before**

go forward with

go forward with *sth*

to start to do something that you have planned: *Sagan ignored Coppola's request and went forward with the production of the movie.*

go in

1 **go in**

to enter a building or room: *It's starting to rain. Do you want to go in?*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter**

2 **go in**

to go to the place where you work: *Ed went in early every day last week.*

+ to *Can I take the car if you're not going in to work tomorrow?*

3 **go in**

to go to the centre of the town that you live in or near: *The traffic's so bad it's becoming impossible to go in by car.* | *I usually go in on my bike.*

4 **go in**

to go and stay in hospital in order to receive some treatment: *He's had to go in to have an operation on his eye.*

+ for *The actress reportedly went in for plastic surgery on her face last week.*

5 **go in**

to enter a dangerous building, area, or country in order to try and deal with the problems there: *OK men. We're going in!* | *The Prime Minister made it clear that, if necessary, NATO forces would go in on the ground.*

6 **go in** *sth* **go in**

to fit inside a container, space, hole etc: *I've made a cake but it's too big to go in the tin.* | *There must be something wrong with this cassette; it won't go in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit**

7 **go in** **go in** *sth*

to join a company, organization etc in order to work for them: *Bob went in at quite a low level, but he was quickly promoted.* | *I decided I'd go in the army when I finished at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **join**

8 **go in**

BrE if the sun or moon goes in, it disappears behind some clouds so you cannot see it any more: *The sun had gone in and it was starting to get cold.*

● OPPOSITE: **come out**

9 **go in**

if a piece of information or a fact goes in, you understand it and remember it: *I tried to concentrate on what he was saying, but it just wasn't going in.* | *Sometimes you have to repeat things to her several times before it goes in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sink in**

10 **go in**

if a ball goes in during a game such as football or golf, it lands in the right place and the team or player scores a point: *In the last five minutes our luck suddenly changed and the ball went in.*

11 **go in**

to go into the sea in order to swim: *Michael was the only one who went in; it was too cold for me.*

+ for *Are you going in for a swim?*

go in for

1 **go in for** *sth*

especially BrE to do, use, have etc a particular type of thing, because you like it, or because it seems a good idea: *In our family we don't go in much for formal meals, we usually just eat in front of the television.* | *Men don't usually go in for displays of emotion.*

2 **go in for** *sth*

BrE to choose a particular type of work as your job: *If you want to earn a lot of money, you should go in for law or something like that.* | *Farrar's father never wanted him to go in for a career in politics.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take up, go into**

3 **go in for** *sth*

BrE to compete in a competition, or to do an examination: *I decided I'd go in for the Young Entertainer of the Year contest.* | *There are several exams you can go in for if you want to improve your qualifications.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **enter**

go into

1 **go into work/school/hospital etc**

to go to work, school, hospital etc: *You don't look well enough to go into work today.* | *French children don't usually go into school on Wednesday afternoons.* | *Mike's going into hospital for an operation on his back.*

2 **go into** *sth*

to go to the centre of the town that you live in or near: *I thought I'd go into Cambridge this afternoon.*

go into town *Could you give me a lift if you're going into town?*

3 **go into** *sth*

to fit inside a container, space, hole etc: *All these clothes can't possibly go into that one tiny suitcase.* | *Which hole does this screw go into.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fit**

4 **go into** *sth*

to start to do a particular type of work as your job, or join a company, organization etc in order to work for them: *At sixteen he left school and went into the family business.* | *He wants to go into the army, but I've been trying to put him off.* | *People go into the medical profession for a number of reasons.*

5 **go into** *sth* USUALLY NEGATIVE

to talk about something, especially in a detailed way: *It's a difficult subject and there isn't time to go into it here.* | *"Why did you and Helen split up?" "I don't want to go into that right now."*

go into detail/the details *I won't go into all the details of the report, but I can tell you that there are no big surprises in it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **discuss**

6 **go into** *sth*

BrE to find out more about something, by getting all the necessary information: *Before you make any further plans, you'd better go into the cost of all this.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look into**

7 **go into** *sth*

to start to be in a particular state or situation, especially a bad one: *Her son went into a coma and never came out of it.* | *Business activity is slowing down, and the economy is expected to go into recession.*

go into debt *We had to go into debt in order to pay for our daughter's wedding.*

go into a decline *He started drinking heavily, and his health started to go into a rapid decline.*

8 **go into** *sth*

to start behaving in a particular way, especially because you feel annoyed, frightened, or think something is funny

go into a mood/temper *She's gone into one of her moods and is refusing to talk to anyone.*

go into a panic *The crowd went into a panic and started to run for the exits.*

go into fits of laughter *When I told them I was leaving, they all went into fits of laughter.*

go into hysterics *Sophie seems to go into hysterics whenever you mention that name.*

9 **go into** *sth*

if a lot of time, money, effort etc goes into doing something, it is used in order to do it: *Years of research went into the book.*

go into doing sth *Huge amounts of money have gone into developing new drugs to treat cancer.*

10 **go into** *sth*

to be used in something you are making or preparing: *Some rather expensive ingredients*

go into this recipe. | The statistics that went into this report were collected and researched at the University of California.

11 **go into** *sth*

to start or prepare to take part in a competition, election, or exam: *Summer's always a tense time for young people going into their exams.* | *The US team is extremely confident as it goes into Thursday's match against Brazil.*

12 **go into** *sth*

if a vehicle goes into something such as a tree, wall, or another vehicle, it hits it: *I didn't see the red lights and I went into the back of a BMW.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crash (into)**

13 **go into** *sth*

if a number goes into a second number, the second number can be divided exactly by the first: *Seven doesn't go into thirty-two.*

go in with

go in with *sb*

to join with another person, company, or organization in order to do something together: *The Vancouver-based company intends to go in with Occidental on the deal.* | *There would be a lot of problems if the Liberal Democrats went in with the Conservatives.*

G

go off

1 **go off**

to leave the place where you are and go somewhere else, especially in order to do something: *Gina got up quickly and went off on her bike.*

+ to *All the men had gone off to the war.*

+ to do sth *Dad went off to watch the baseball game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away**

2 **go off** *sb/sth*

BrE informal to stop liking someone or something that you used to like: *Pete went off me after he met another girl on holiday.* | *I used to enjoy tennis, but I've gone off it a bit now.*

3 **go off**

BrE if food or drink goes off, it is not good to eat or drink any more, for example because it has been kept too long, and it often smells bad: *Do you think this meat has gone off? It doesn't smell too good.* | *Milk usually goes off after a few days.*

4 **go off**

if a bomb goes off, it explodes: *A bomb went off in East London in April last year, injuring seven people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **explode**

5 **go off**

if a light, machine etc goes off, it stops working: *There was a very strong wind, and suddenly all the lights went off.* | *The central heating always goes off at 9 o'clock in the evening.* | *The power goes off automatically if there's an earthquake.*

● OPPOSITE: **come on, go on**

6 **go off**

if a gun goes off, it fires: *I heard a gun go off in the distance.* | *Gillespie claimed that the gun went off accidentally during a struggle.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fire**

7 **go off**

if an alarm goes off, it makes a sudden loud noise, especially in order to warn people about something: *Police were called to the house when the burglar alarm went off at two in the morning.* | *I set my alarm clock to go off at six.*

8 **go off well/smoothly/as planned etc**

to happen successfully in the way that you had planned: *Rosie was very nervous, but all the arrangements went off really smoothly.* | *The campaign didn't go off as well as Blair had hoped.*

9 **go off**

to suddenly start talking or thinking about something completely different: *Ian suddenly went off into a description of his awful childhood.* | *Her mind had obviously gone off somewhere, and she sat staring out of the window.*

10 **go off** **go off** *sth*

if a road, line etc goes off in a particular direction, it separates from another road or line and follows a different direction: *About two miles further on, the track goes off to the right.* | *Draw a horizontal line, and another going off it at an angle of about 30°.*

11 **go off**

BrE informal to become worse in standard or quality: *It used to be a lovely hotel, but it's gone off a bit in recent years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deteriorate** *formal*, **go downhill**

12 **go off**

AmE informal to show your anger at someone or about something by saying what you really think using strong words: *Randy just totally went off when I told him I didn't want to see him anymore.*

+ on *Melissa really went off on Rich as soon as he got home.*

go off with

1 **go off with** *sb*

to leave your husband, wife, boyfriend etc in order to have a relationship with someone

else and live with them: *Apparently Lizzy was still a child when her mother went off with another man.* | *Michael went off with a woman half his age.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **run off with**

2 **go off with** *sth*

informal to take something away from somewhere without asking, or to steal something: *I think someone went off with my coat by mistake.* | *He went off with thousands of pounds worth of jewellery.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **run off with, walk off with**

go on

1 **go on**

to continue to happen or exist, especially for a long time or for a particular period of time: *The party went on until four in the morning.*

+ for *The negotiations are expected to go on for several weeks.* | *How long has this been going on for?*

go on and on (=continue for a very long time) *The meeting went on and on, until Pauline and I were practically falling asleep.*

ongoing ADJ
used to emphasize that something continues to happen and does not stop: *Learning is an ongoing process – it doesn't stop when you leave school.*

2 **go on**

to continue doing something without stopping or changing

go on doing sth *Philip completely ignored what I said and went on eating.* | *It could go on raining like this all day.* | *I was beginning to feel that I couldn't go on with my work any more.* | *You just have to try and forget what happened and go on with your life.*

go on *If you go on like this, you'll end up in hospital.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **carry on**

3 **go on** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something is going on, it is happening, especially something strange, unusual, or confusing: *It was obvious that something very suspicious was going on.*

what's going on *There seems to be a lot of noise – what's going on in there?* | *Nobody in the office seemed to know what was going on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **happen**

goings-on N [PLURAL]
events or activities that seem strange or that you disapprove of: *There've been some strange goings-on in the house next door.*

4 **go on**

to do or achieve something, after you have finished doing something else

+ to do sth *He went on to win an Olympic Gold medal in the 400 metres.* | *Martin Landau and Dianne Wiest have both gone on to win Oscars.*

+ to *In 1980 fewer than 30% of girls went on to higher education.*

5 **go on**

to continue talking about something, especially after stopping for a short time or being interrupted by someone: *"There's only one other possibility," Jed went on.* | *Sorry to interrupt you, please go on.*

+ with *After a short pause, Maria went on with her story.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **continue**

6 **go on**

informal to talk too much in a boring way

sb/sth does go on *Pam's a really nice person but she does go on a bit!*

go on and on *The speaker went on and on until we were all practically falling asleep.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bang on** *BrE informal*

7 **go on** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE informal to keep complaining about something, or asking someone to do something: *I wish you'd stop going on, Mum!*

+ about *He's always going on about how much work he's got to do.*

go on at sb (to do sth) *BrE* *I've been going on at Rick to tidy his room for weeks now.*

8 **go on**

to continue travelling or moving towards a particular place or in a particular direction, especially after stopping for a short time: *They stopped at a small hotel and had a meal before going on again.*

+ to *The original plan was to drive down to Spain, but in the end we went on to Morocco.*

9 **go on**

BrE to go somewhere before the other people you are with: *Bill and the girls went on in the car and the rest of us followed on foot.*

go on ahead *Why don't you go on ahead – we'll catch up with you later.*

10 **go on**

if a type of land, a road etc goes on for a particular distance or in a particular direction, it continues for that distance or in that direction: *In front of us, the desert went on as far as the eye could see.* | *This road goes on to Utah, and we don't want to end up there.*

11 **go on!**

spoken used to encourage someone to do something: *Go on, have another drink.* | *Go on, James, tell us!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come on!** *spoken*

12 **go on!**

spoken informal used to tell someone that you are very surprised by what someone has just told you, or that you do not believe it: *Go on! She didn't really go out with him, did she?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get away!** *BrE spoken informal*, **come off it!** *spoken informal*

13 **go on (then)**

BrE spoken informal used to tell someone that you will agree to something that you had refused to agree to before: *"Don't you think I could borrow the car, just for once?" "Oh, go on then."*

14 **go on** *sth*

to base your opinion or judgment on the information that is available: *I can only go on the information that I've got in this report.*

not have much/anything to go on (=not have much or any information on which to base an opinion or judgment) *The police didn't have much to go on as there were no witnesses.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go by**

G

15 **go on** *sth*

BrE if an amount of something, especially money, goes on a particular thing, it is spent on or used for that thing: *A large proportion of my salary goes on our mortgage.*

go on doing sth *The money we raised went on rebuilding the church tower.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go towards/toward**

16 **go on**

if a light, machine, or piece of equipment goes on, it starts working: *The inside light goes on automatically when you open the door.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come on**

● OPPOSITE: **go off**

17 **as time/the day/the years etc go on**

used to describe what happens while time passes: *As time went on, we no longer seemed to have much in common.* | *I feel fine in the morning, but I tend to get worse as the day goes on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wear on**

18 **be going on for 18/60 etc** *BrE*

be going on 18/60 etc *AmE*

informal to be almost a particular age: *"How old's Michael?" "He must be going on for 50 by now."*

17 going on 18/35 going on 40 etc *She must be about seventeen, going on eighteen.*

19 **go on** *sth*

to start taking a type of medical drug: *I don't want to go on sleeping pills, if I can possibly avoid it.*

go on the pill (=start taking the pill that prevents you from having a baby) *During the 1960s, a lot of women started to go on the pill.*

go on with

have enough to go on with

BrE informal to have enough of something, so that you do not need any more at the moment: *Have you got enough money to be going on with?* | *I think I've got enough work to go on with for now, thank you.*

go out

1 **go out**

to leave a building, room etc in order to go somewhere else: *Maria got up and went out, closing the door behind her.* | *Do you want to go out into the garden?*

2 **go out**

to leave your house in order to meet people, enjoy yourself etc: *I'm going out to the cinema this evening.* | *Let's go out and celebrate!*

+ for *Do you want to go out for a pizza tonight?*

+ to do sth *Will's just gone out to play football with the other boys.*

● OPPOSITE: **stay in, stop in** *BrE informal*

3 **go out**

to travel to another country, especially one that is far away: *My sister lives in Toronto and we're all going out there in the summer.*

+ to *Louise has gone out to Australia to try and find a job for the summer.*

4 **goes out**

if a light goes out, it stops shining: *We were having dinner when suddenly the lights went out.* | *I sat and watched all the lights in the houses go out one by one.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go off, go on**

● OPPOSITE: **come on**

5 **go out**

to stop burning: *In the end there was no more wood and the fire went out.* | *By now, the barbecue had gone out and it was starting to rain.*

6 **go out**

if news or an official message goes out, it is announced or sent to people: *The news went out that Mandela was about to be released.*

+ to *Invitations to the conference went out to twenty-five countries.*

word went out that (=people were saying that something had happened or was about to happen) *Word went out that the President was dead.*

7 **go out**

to stop being fashionable, or stop being the normal thing that is used: *People used to wear white leather boots – but they went out years ago.*

go out of fashion *Computer games cost a fortune and then they go out of fashion in a couple of months.*

8 **go out and do** *sth*

to do something difficult in a determined way, even though it is difficult and needs a lot of effort: *"We're going to go out and win the game on Thursday," said catcher Charles Johnson. | If a single mother has to go out and find a job that will provide for her family, it's very hard. | "I want you go out and find him," Vincent said.*

9 **go out**

if money goes out, it is spent, especially on bills, rent, food, and other things that you have to pay for regularly: *Everything's so expensive – my money goes out almost as soon as I get it. | I sat down to make a list of what comes in and what goes out each month.*

● OPPOSITE: **come in**

outgoings N [PLURAL]
BrE the money which you have to spend regularly each month or year, for example on bills or rent: *If your outgoings are high, it's difficult to save money as well.*

10 **go out**

to be broadcast on television or radio: *The interview will go out live at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be broadcast**

11 **the tide/sea goes out**

if the tide goes out, the sea moves away from the land and the water level goes down. The tide is the regular movement of the sea caused by the moon: *It can be dangerous to swim here when the tide's going out.*

● OPPOSITE: **come in**

12 **go out**

to lose a game against another player or team, so that you cannot continue in a sports competition: *Becker went out in the quarter finals at Wimbledon.*

+ of *Tiger Woods went out of the championships, after a disastrous second round.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go down**

go out of

go out of *sth/sb*

if the excitement, energy etc goes out of something or someone, they no longer have it: *As soon as my father retired, all the life seemed to go out of him. | He didn't feel like playing in the band anymore. All the fun and excitement had gone out of it.*

go out to

your sympathy/heart/thoughts etc go out to *sb*

used to say that you feel a lot of sympathy for someone because they are in a very sad or difficult situation: *Our sympathy goes out to all the families affected by this tragedy. | When I heard that she'd lost her baby my heart went out to her.*

go out together/with

go out together **go out with** *sb*

to meet someone regularly and go to different places with them because you are having a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *They'd been going out together for three years before they decided to get married. | I only went out with Pete a couple of times – he wasn't really my type!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **date**

G

go over

1 **go over**

to visit someone who lives near you for a short time: *Debbie's out of hospital – I think I might go over and see her this evening.*

+ to *I'm going over to Steve's for dinner.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go round** BrE

2 **go over**

to visit a place that is across the sea

+ to *We're going over to Ireland to see Jenny's family.*

3 **go over** *sth*

to examine or discuss something carefully and in detail: *The President was in his study, going over his speech for the following day. | The jury spent 14 hours going over all the evidence, before coming to their final decision.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go through**

4 **go over** *sth*

to explain something to someone to make sure that they have understood it, often when you have already explained it before: *I'll go over the main points again in next week's class. | Our boss went over what we had to do when the visitors arrived.*

5 **go over** *sth*

to keep thinking about something that has happened or something that someone has said to you, especially something unpleasant or annoying: *Neil kept going over what had happened, trying to work out how it had all gone so terribly wrong.*

go over sth in your mind *She went over it again and again in her mind. Why had Robert been so unfriendly? Had she offended him?*

6 **go over well** ALSO **go over big** *AmE informal*

if something new goes over well or big, people like it

+ with *Mexico's new coach made some changes to the team that did not go over well with the fans.* | *Limonia, the new Greek restaurant, has gone over big with the residents of Sun City Vistoso.*

how sth will go over (=whether people will like something or not) *The play was a great success in Britain, but we don't know how it will go over in America.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go down**

7 **go over** *sth*

to clean something thoroughly: *Simon went over the carpet with the vacuum cleaner.*

∗ SIMILAR TO:

give sth a going-over
BrE informal to clean something: *I need to give the house a good going-over before Mum comes to stay.*

8 **go over** *sth*

to search a place very carefully: *I've gone over every inch of the house, but I can't find my ring anywhere.*

go over sth with a fine-tooth comb (=search a place extremely carefully) *The police thought that Leigh had drugs in her apartment and they went over it with a fine-tooth comb.*

go overboard

go overboard

to do something too much, or react in an extreme way, for example by praising or criticizing someone or something too much: *"It's one of the best films I've ever seen." "There's no need to go overboard – it wasn't that good."*

+ on/with *People seem to be going overboard on health and fitness these days.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go over the top**

go over to

1 **go over to** *sth*

to change to a different system or a different way of doing things: *We used to have gas heaters, but now we've gone over to solar power.* | *Britain went over to the decimal system in 1971. Before that everything was in pounds, shillings, and pence.* | *Most colleges have gone over to the modular system, which means you can do your degree in parts.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **change over to sth, switch over to sth**

2 **go over to** *sth*

to leave a group or organization and join the one that is opposing them: *If the army went over to the rebels, the government would collapse.* | *Emma Nicholson, the MP who left the Conservative Party and went over to the Liberal Democrats* | *Anakin Skywalker went over to the dark side and became Darth Vader.*

go round *BrE*

SEE **go around**

go round together/with *BrE*

SEE **go around with**

go through

1 **go through** *sth*

to experience something, especially a difficult or unpleasant situation, or a period of time when a lot of changes happen: *We've been through a tough time lately, but hopefully things will start to improve soon.* | *The company is going through a period of great change, and no one knows if their job is safe.*

sb went through a lot (=a lot of bad things happened to them) *She went through a lot when she was young – her father died when she was only 6 months old.*

2 **go through** *sth*

to carefully examine all of a group of things in order to try to find something: *Dave went through his pockets again, but he still couldn't find the address.* | *After his mother died, he had to go through all the old family photographs and papers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look through**

3 **go through** *sth*

to carefully read or discuss something, to check that it is correct and acceptable: *Could you just go through this file and mark anything that seems wrong?* | *I sat down at my desk and went through the police reports again, to check that I hadn't missed anything.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go over**

4 **go through** *sth*

to talk about all of the details of something to someone, in order to make sure that they understand it: *Can you ask her to go through the last part again? I didn't quite catch what*

she meant. | Do you want to go through the main points again?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **explain**

5 **go through** *sth*

to practise something such as a song or dance: *Let's go through the song again from the beginning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **practise**

6 **go through** *sth*

if something or someone goes through a test, check, or an official process, they are tested or checked in order to make sure that they are suitable for something: *Every car goes through a series of safety checks before it leaves the factory. | You have to go through a lengthy process before being allowed to adopt a child.*

7 **go through**

if a law, an agreement, or an official request to do something goes through, it is officially accepted or approved: *If the bill goes through, university students will have to pay part of their tuition fees. | Your application for a loan has gone through. | Donna plans to remarry as soon as her divorce has gone through.*

8 **go through** *sth*

to use all of something in a short time, especially when it seems a lot: *Austria is very expensive – we went through all our money in the first week. | We go through about ten pints of milk a day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get through**

9 **go through** *sb/sth*

to ask a particular person, department etc to deal with your problems or needs because they are officially responsible for that type of thing: *The school principal controls the budget, and all requests for new books must go through her.*

go through the proper channels (=follow the official way of asking permission for something, making a complaint etc) *You can't just get a visa from the post office – you have to go through the proper channels.*

10 **go through**

to take part in the next part of a competition, because you have won the part before it

+ to *Agassi and Sampras will go through to the Wimbledon final.*

11 **go through** *sth*

to make a hole in something by accident, for example in a piece of clothing that you have worn a lot: *My toe has gone through my sock.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wear through**

12 **go through** *sb's* **mind/head**

if something goes through your mind or head, you think about it: *The same questions kept going through my mind again and again. | I looked at Doyle and wondered what was going through his head.*

go through with

go through with *sth*

to do something you had promised or planned to do, even though it seems difficult or unpleasant, or you are no longer sure you want to do it: *Giving evidence in court was terrifying, but I'm glad that I went through with it.*

can't/couldn't go through with it *Jenny was going to have an abortion, but decided that she couldn't go through with it.*

go to

1 **go to** *sb*

if money or a prize goes to someone, they are given it: *All the money raised will go to local charities. | And the award for best film goes to... 'Shakespeare in Love'.*

2 **go to a lot of effort/trouble/expense etc**

to try very hard or spend a lot of money in order to do something: *The meal was absolutely amazing. They'd obviously gone to a lot of trouble to get it just right. | Parents often go to a great deal of expense in order to make sure that their children get a good education.*

3 **go to it**

AmE spoken informal used to tell or encourage someone to do something: *"The kitchen really needs to be cleaned." "Yeah, go to it."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get to it**

go together

1 **go together** NOT PROGRESSIVE

if two things go together, they look, taste, or sound good together: *Do these trousers and this jacket go together? | Tina's voice and Rhys's songwriting style go together perfectly.*

go well together *Pork and apple go well together.*

2 **go together** NOT PROGRESSIVE

if two things go together, they often exist together or are often connected with each other: *The problems of poor housing and bad health often go together. | Traditionally, Christmas and snow have always gone together. | Horse racing and Ireland go together – it is said that there are as many horses as people.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go hand in hand**

G

3 **be going together**

informal if two people are going together, they are having a romantic or sexual relationship: *I didn't know Sharon and Les were going together.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go out together**

go towards/toward

● British people usually use **go towards**. American people usually use **go toward**.

go towards/toward *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if an amount of money goes towards something, it is used to help pay for something or for a particular purpose: *My parents gave me $300 to go toward a new computer.* | *All the money raised will go towards local charities.*

go under

1 **go under**

if a company or business goes under, it has to close because it does not make enough money to continue: *Many restaurants go under in their first year.* | *The business went under, and then his wife left him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go bankrupt**

2 **go under** **go under** *sth*

to become unconscious, because you have been given an anaesthetic (=a drug used by doctors to stop you from feeling pain) *The nurse injected something into my arm, and I immediately felt myself going under.*

3 **go under**

to sink below the surface of the water: *We watched from the lifeboat as the great ship finally went under.*

go up

1 **go up**

if a price or the level of something goes up, it increases: *The rate of violent crime among young people in the US is still going up.* | *House prices in this area are going up and up.* | *Because of fierce competition, the price of computers keeps going down, while their quality keeps going up.* | *Cigarettes have gone up.* (=have become more expensive)

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rise, increase**

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

2 **go up**

to travel north

+ to *We stayed in San Francisco and then went up to Seattle for a few days.*

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

3 **go up**

BrE to go to a town or city from a smaller place: *I'd like to go up to London to do some Christmas shopping.*

4 **go up**

to walk until you are next to someone or something, in order to talk to them or do something: *The boys went up and asked her for her autograph.*

+ to *Dylan went up to the microphone and started singing.*

5 **go up**

if new buildings go up, they are built: *New high-rise apartment buildings are going up all around the town.*

6 **go up**

to explode or start burning: *A lit cigarette fell on the sofa, and within minutes the whole room had gone up.*

go up in flames *The car rolled down the bank and went up in flames.*

7 **go up**

if a shout, cry etc goes up, the people in a place make a noise that expresses how they feel: *A groan went up as Miss Hirsch reminded the class about their vocabulary test.* | *A wild cheer went up from the people standing on the street, as a fireman emerged from the house carrying a child.*

8 **go up**

BrE to move to a higher group of sports teams and players who play together: *United will go up to the first division next season.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be promoted**

● OPPOSITE: **go down** *BrE*, **be relegated**

9 **the lights go up**

if the lights go up in a cinema or theatre, they are turned on because the film or show has ended: *The lights went up, and people started to leave the cinema.*

● OPPOSITE: **the lights go down** *BrE old-fashioned*

10 **go up**

BrE old-fashioned to begin studying at university

+ to *She went up to Oxford in 1975.*

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

go up against

go up against *sb*

especially AmE to compete against someone, especially in sport, business, or in a court of law: *The LA Raiders go up against the Green Bay Packers on August 7.* | *It's almost impossible for an ordinary person to go up against a big company that can afford to hire top lawyers.*

G

go up to

go up to *sb/sth*

to reach as far as a particular place or continue until a particular time: *Our garden goes up to these bushes – the rest belongs to the neighbours.* | *The financial year only goes up to April.*

go with

1 **go with** *sth*

if one thing goes with another, they look, taste, or sound good together: *Do you think these shoes go with this dress?* | *That shade of blue goes with your eyes.*

go well with sth *This wine should go well with meat and strong-tasting cheeses*

2 **go with** *sth*

if something such as a problem or an advantage goes with a particular situation, it is often a part of it: *the pressure that goes with being famous* | *They were used to having pension, and sick pay, and everything that goes with having a secure job.*

sth goes with the territory (=used to say that a problem is a usual part of a job or situation, and people should expect it) *Young lawyers have to work extremely long hours, but that just goes with the territory.*

3 **go with** *sth*

if one thing goes with another, it is provided with it so that you get both together: *The house goes with the job.* | *a blue silk evening dress that has a matching bag to go with it*

4 **go with** *sth*

especially spoken to accept an idea, suggestion, plan etc and decide to use it: *"What do you think of Jo's idea?" "I think we should go with it, I can't think of anything better."*

5 **go with** *sb*

spoken to have someone as your boyfriend or girlfriend: *Is Martin still going with Jane?*

* SIMILAR TO: **go out with**

6 **go with** *sb*

BrE old-fashioned spoken to have sex with someone – used when you want to avoid saying this directly: *I never went with him, you know.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sleep with**

go without

go without | **go without** *sth*

to not have something that you usually have: *We can't afford a holiday this year, so we'll just have to go without.* | *I can't party all night and go without sleep like I used to when I was younger.*

GOAD

goaded, goaded, goading

goad into

goad *sb* **into** *sth*

to make someone do something that they do not want to do, by annoying them or encouraging them until they do it: *Denton had deliberately goaded Polly into saying more than she intended.* | *Alexei refused to be goaded into an argument.*

goad on

goad *sb* **on** USUALLY PASSIVE

to encourage someone to do something, especially something that is bad or not sensible, by making them angry or telling them that they are not clever enough or brave enough to do it: *The boy had dived from the bridge, goaded on by a crowd of his friends.* | *Daly, goaded on by the manager's impatience, somehow succeeded in getting the business working.*

* SIMILAR TO: **egg on, lead on**

GOBBLE

gobbled, gobbled, gobbling

gobble down

gobble down *sth* | **gobble** *sth* **down**

informal to eat something very quickly and eagerly: *Today's kids gobble down bagfuls of cookies, potato chips and other junk foods.* | *Joseph joined us for lunch, gobbled it down and rushed back to work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gobble up** *informal*, **wolf down** *informal*

gobble up

1 **gobble up** *sth* | **gobble** *sth* **up**

informal to use or take a lot of something such as land or money, especially in a way that seems unreasonable: *Developers were gobbling up hundreds of acres of land to build houses.* | *It's a very poor country – just paying its debts gobbles up 30% of its budget each year.*

2 **gobble up** *sth* | **gobble** *sth* **up**

if one company gobbles up a smaller company, it buys it and takes control of it: *Uniford moved to gobble up its rival, Clifton Foods, in a £48 million offer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take over**

3 **gobble up** *sth* | **gobble** *sth* **up**

informal to eat all of something very quickly and eagerly: *I thought I'd made plenty of sandwiches for the picnic, but everyone just gobbled them up.*

GOOF
goofed, goofed, goofing

goof around

goof around | **goof around** *sth*

AmE *informal* to spend time doing something in a silly or not very serious way, especially for fun: *We weren't really playing basketball. We were mostly just goofing around.* | *I was goofing around on my bike and I broke my arm.* | *We just goofed around London all day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **muck about/around** *BrE informal*

goof off

goof off

AmE *informal* to spend time doing silly things and having fun, when you should be working: *In high school I just goofed off most of the time, but when I went to college I started to study a lot more.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **skive off** *BrE informal*, **screw around** *AmE informal*

goof-off N [C]
AmE *informal* someone who wastes time being silly and having fun instead of working: *He eventually made the transformation from high school goof-off to successful scholar.*

G

goof up

goof up | **goof** *sth* **up** | **goof up** *sth*

AmE *informal* to make a silly mistake or do something badly: *Oops, I goofed up and told Chloe the party was at your house.* | *If I try to say it in Spanish, I'll goof it up.*

+ on *The good news was that she didn't goof up on the test.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *informal*

GORGE
gorged, gorged, gorging

gorge on

1 **gorge yourself on** *sth*

to eat large amounts of something that you enjoy eating, especially more than is good for you: *We all stood around gorging ourselves on raspberries and cream.* | *As a boy, he used to gorge himself on chocolate and candy.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pig out on sth** *informal*

2 **gorge yourself on** *sth*

to have or do something that you enjoy so much that it has a bad effect on you, or you feel bored with it: *When I first left home I gorged myself on an endless round of late-night parties.*

GOUGE
gouged, gouged, gouging

gouge out

gouge out *sth* | **gouge** *sth* **out**

to remove something or dig it out, especially in a very violent way using something sharp: *McClaren had struck Robert with a bottle and attempted to gouge out his eyes.* | *30,000 tonnes of rock a week are gouged out of the mountains.*

GRAB
grabbed, grabbed, grabbing

grab at

1 **grab at** *sb/sth*

to quickly try to catch or hold someone or something: *We both grabbed at the bird, but it flew up into the trees.* | *He stumbled forward and grabbed at the door handle to steady himself.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **grasp at**

2 **grab at** *sth*

to take an opportunity very eagerly: *Seline grabbed at every chance to go out in the evening.* | *I grabbed at every invitation I received.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **seize on/upon**

GRAFT
grafted, grafted, grafting

graft on/onto

graft *sth* **on/onto** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to add a new idea, method, system etc to one that already exists, and try to combine the two: *New elements of democracy are being grafted on to the traditional system of government.* | *Some ancient practices were grafted onto the new religion.*

GRAPPLE
grappled, grappled, grappling

grapple with

grapple with *sth*

to try to deal with or understand a difficult problem, subject etc: *In the north, the people have been grappling with the problem of unemployment for years.* | *Some of the students are having difficulty in grappling with the mysteries of electronics.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wrestle with**

GRASP

grasped, grasped, grasping

grasp at

1 **grasp at** *sth*

to quickly try to catch or hold someone or something: *His foot slipped and he grasped at a piece of jutting wood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab at, clutch at**

2 **grasp at** *sth*

to try to use any opportunity or idea that might help you in a difficult situation, although it is not very likely to be successful: *The President was grasping at some way to stay in power. | Leonore grasped at the chance to prove herself as a member of the team.*

3 **be grasping at straws**

if you say that someone is grasping at straws, you mean that they are unlikely to succeed because they are in a hopeless situation, and there is no method that will work: *"We may be able to appeal," the lawyer said. He was grasping at straws.*

GRASS

grassed, grassed, grassing

grass on

grass on *sb*

BrE informal to tell people in authority about something illegal or bad that a person has done: *Scarlet promised that she wouldn't grass on Charlie if the police came looking for him. | Some of the men had been beaten up for grassing on other prisoners.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform on, grass up** *BrE informal*

grass over

grass *sth* **over** **grass over** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to plant grass over an area of land: *Eventually the flower beds were flattened and grassed over.*

grass up

grass *sb* **up** **grass up** *sb*

BrE informal if someone grasses up a person that they know, they tell people in authority about something illegal or bad that the person has done: *When my mum found out about the drugs, she went to the police. She grassed me up. | The officer publicly accused his colleagues of racism and was himself accused of grassing up his mates.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform on, grass on** *BrE informal*

GRATE

grated, grated, grating

grate on

grate on *sb/sth*

if someone's voice or behaviour grates on you, you find it annoying: *Her voice was already starting to grate on him, and he didn't think he could put up with her for a whole evening.*

grate on sb's nerves *The sound of Anna crunching her toast was grating on his nerves.*

GRAVITATE

gravitated, gravitated, gravitating

gravitate to/towards ALSO gravitate toward *AmE*

gravitate to *sth/sb*

gravitate towards/toward *sth/sb*

to be attracted to something or someone and therefore move towards them or become interested in them: *Tourists naturally gravitate to the city's older section. | As students in the early 1960s, we gravitated towards politics.*

G

GRIND

ground, ground, grinding

grind away

grind away USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to work very hard for a long period of time, especially when the work is boring or you do not seem to be making much progress: *I've been grinding away for eight hours now, and I'm getting nowhere.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slave away, boil away, slog away** *BrE informal*

grind away at

grind away at *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually make something less strong or successful than it was before: *The scandal is grinding away at the President's popularity.*

grind down

1 **grind down** *sb/sth* **grind** *sb/sth* **down**

to gradually make someone lose their confidence, hope, or energy: *A lot of the women have been ground down by illness and poverty. | It was a poor country, ground down by war and economic blockade. | Don't let the bastards grind you down!*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear down**

2 **grind down** *sth* | **grind** *sth* **down**

to make something solid into a powder, by crushing it: *Chop the nuts and then grind them down before adding them to the sauce.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grind up**

grind on

grind on

to continue for a long time in a slow and boring way: *The trial ground on all through the long hot summer.* | *The conversation ground on as the meal was consumed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drag on**

grind out

1 **grind out** *sth* | **grind** *sth* **out**

to keep producing the same type of thing, without ever producing anything different or interesting: *In nine months she managed to grind out five new romantic novels.*

* SIMILAR TO: **churn out**

2 **grind out** *sth* | **grind** *sth* **out**

AmE informal to manage to do something with a lot of effort: *The home team were only able to grind out one touchdown against the Lions.*

grind up

grind up *sth* | **grind** *sth* **up**

to make something solid into a powder, by crushing it: *Local people grind up the leaves and use them to make tea.* | *Mad cow disease started when parts of infected sheep were ground up and mixed with cattle feed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grind down**

G

GROAN

groaned, groaned, groaning

groan with

be groaning with *sth*

BrE to be covered or filled with a very large amount of something: *We sat down at a table groaning with food and glasses of wine.* | *The room was dark and lined with shelves groaning with ancient books.*

GROPE

groped, groped, groping

grope for

grope for *sth*

to try hard to find a way of saying or doing something, often without success: *"It was incredible," Martin said, groping for words to describe the scene.* | *Politicians have been groping for a solution to the problem for years.*

GROSS

grossed, grossed, grossing

gross out

gross *sb* **out** | **gross out** *sb*

AmE informal if someone or something grosses you out, they are so unpleasant that they almost make you feel sick: *Ben used to gross me out. He always had his tongue sticking out of his mouth.* | *It reminded me of the flesh-eaters that grossed out movie-goers in 'Night of the Living Dead.'*

* SIMILAR TO: **disgust**

gross-out ADJ
extremely rude or unpleasant: *I can't take his gross-out jokes.*

gross up

gross *sth* **up** | **gross up** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE to increase a sum of money by adding the amount of tax that will be paid on it: *This £75, when grossed up, will be worth £93.75 to the taxpayer.*

GROUND

grounded, grounded, grounding

be grounded in

be grounded in *sth*

to have a thorough basic knowledge of something you have been taught

be well grounded in *In those days, he said, students were well grounded in spelling.*

be grounded in/on

be grounded in/on *sth*

to be based on something: *All these beliefs and attitudes are grounded in experience.* | *The education reforms were grounded on a concern with the quality of teaching.*

ground out

ground out

AmE to be out of a baseball game because you hit the ball on the ground and a player from the other team throws it to the base before you get there: *Erikson eventually grounded out, and the Braves didn't score any more runs that inning.*

GROW

grew, grown, growing

grow apart

grow apart

if two people grow apart, they gradually stop

sharing the same interests and ideas and stop having a close relationship with each other: *Sadly, after eight years of being married to each other, they just grew apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drift apart**

grow away from

grow away from *sb*

especially BrE to gradually feel less close to someone and less fond of them, because you have changed as you have become older: *All children must grow away from their parents as they get older.*

grow into

1 **grow into** *sth*

if children grow into clothes, they become big enough for the clothes to fit them: *The coat looks a bit big on him now; but he'll soon grow into it.*

2 **grow into** *sth*

to gradually learn how to deal with a new job or situation confidently: *Slowly Anne grew into the role of senior manager.* | *I was very nervous when I first started acting, but I soon grew into it.*

grow on

grow on *sb*

informal if someone or something grows on you, you gradually like them more although you did not like them much at first: *We really didn't like our neighbours when we came here, but they've grown on us now.* | *Some movies grow on you after repeated viewings.*

grow out of

1 **grow out of** *sth*

if children grow out of something, they stop doing it or are no longer interested in it as they get older: *At eighteen months my son was very shy, but he soon grew out of it.*

2 **grow out of** *sth*

if children grow out of clothes, they become too big to wear them: *Kids grow out of shoes within three to six months.*

3 **grow out of** *sth*

to develop as the result of something: *The book grew out of our work with dozens of businesses and professional organizations.* | *The Labour Party grew out of the Trade Union movement.*

grow up

1 **grow up**

to change from being a child into an adult: *The kids have all grown up now and we want to move into a smaller house.* | *Pat has grown up to be a hunky muscular six foot two.*

grown-up N [C]
informal an adult, used especially by children, or by adults talking to children: *Edna is babysitting for you tonight. She's a grown-up now.*

grown-up ADJ
if someone's children are grown-up, they have become adults: *"How many kids have you got?" "Two, but they're both grown-up now."*

2 **grow up**

if you grow up in a place, you live there during the time when you are a child: *Phillips grew up in Southern California.*

3 **grow up doing** *sth*

to spend a lot of time doing something when you are a child: *I grew up listening to this kind of music.*

4 **grow up**

to start to behave in a more sensible, adult way, used about both children and adults: *Gabrielle's grown up a lot since she started her new school.* | *I wish you'd stop fooling around and grow up!*

grown-up ADJ
if you say that a child is grown-up, you mean that they behave in a sensible, adult way: *My daughter's thirteen but she's very grown-up for her age.*

5 **grow up**

if something grows up, it begins to exist and then gradually becomes bigger or more important: *The town grew up around the magnificent 13th century castle.* | *New industries generally grow up in order to meet a demand.*

grow up on

grow up on *sth*

to experience or do something a lot during the time when you are a child, so that it has a strong influence in your life: *This generation has grown up on TV. They can't imagine life without it.* | *I grew up on the Beatles.*

GRUB

grubbed, grubbed, grubbing

grub about/around

1 **grub about/around**

BrE informal to search for something by digging or moving things with your hands: *Jasper had got down on the floor and was grubbing about under the carpet.*

2 **grub about/around**

BrE informal to try to find something that is difficult to find

G

+ for *We were desperately grubbing around for an answer to the problem.*

grub up/out

grub *sth* **up/out** | **grub up/out** *sth*

BrE to dig something out of the ground roughly: *Between 1946 and 1963, 85,000 miles of hedges were grubbed out.* | *The pigs live on roots which they grub up from the ground.*

GUARD

guarded, guarded, guarding

guard against

1 **guard against** *sth*

to help to prevent something from happening, by providing protection against it: *Fibre in the diet is thought to guard against heart disease.* | *These gates act as a safety measure to guard against flooding.*

2 **guard against** *sth*

to be careful to avoid doing, feeling etc something, because it could have a bad result or effect: *It's vital to guard against getting overtired when you're driving long distances.* | *In any relationship you should try to guard against misunderstandings.*

G

GUESS

guessed, guessed, guessing

guess at

guess at *sth*

to give an answer or opinion about something which you realize may not be correct, because you do not have all the information you need: *The police can only guess at the scale of the problem.* | *We were able to guess at the true identity of the characters in the book.*

GULP

gulped, gulped, gulping

gulp back

gulp back *sth*

literary to try not to cry or show what you are feeling, especially by swallowing quickly: *"That's fine," I said, gulping back my disappointment.*

gulp back your tears *Jenna gulped back her tears and turned away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

gulp down

gulp down *sth* | **gulp** *sth* **down**

to swallow large amounts of drink or food very quickly: *She ordered a glass of wine, gulped it down and rushed off.* | *Mattie had a quick break for lunch, gulping down a couple of sandwiches and a coffee.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wolf down** *informal*

GUM

gummed, gummed, gumming

gum up

1 **gum up** *sth* | **gum** *sth* **up**

to prevent something from happening or working properly: *If someone is gumming up the system by being too slow, we can't afford to keep them.*

gum up the works (=prevent a machine or system from working properly) *Dust gets in between the keys and gums up the works.*

2 **be gummed up**

if your eyes are gummed up, it is difficult to open them because they feel sticky: *When I woke up my eyes were totally gummed up – yuk!*

GUN

gunned, gunned, gunning

gun down

gun *sb* **down** | **gun down** *sb*

to shoot someone and kill or injure them, especially when they cannot escape or defend themselves: *The journalist had been gunned down in the driveway of his San Fransisco home.* | *The men dragged Oliveros out of his car and gunned him down in the street..*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot, shoot down**

be gunning for

1 **be gunning for** *sth*

to be trying to get or win something, by competing against other people: *Manchester United were gunning for their third straight win.* | *He is now said to be gunning for the top job at the Daily Mail.*

2 **be gunning for** *sb*

informal to be trying to make trouble for someone or to harm them, especially because you are angry with them about something: *I didn't know that by then the terrorists were gunning for me, too.* | *She now has half the Labour Party gunning for her.*

GUSSY

gussied, gussied, gussying

gussy up

gussy yourself up/get gussied up

AmE old fashioned to dress yourself in your best clothes so that you look attractive: *Get yourself gussied up and meet at the Club Congress on Wednesday evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

gussied-up ADJ
dressed in your best clothes: *The orchestra performed for a gussied-up audience.*

H

HACK

hacked, hacked, hacking

hack about

hack *sth* **about**

BrE informal to make a lot of small changes to a book, play, film etc – often used when you disapprove of the way this has been done: *I wish they'd left the play as it was in the original version, instead of hacking it about and trying to make it sound modern.*

hack away

1 **hack away**

to cut something with repeated movements of a knife or something sharp, without being very careful about what you are doing: *The hairdresser grabbed a piece of my hair and started hacking away before I could say anything.*

+ **at** *Jim went first, hacking away at the branches to clear a path.*

2 **hack away**

to gradually reduce something, for example by using or removing part of it

+ **at** *The accountants have been hacking away at the budget for months.* | *Tiger Woods began hacking away at his opponent's lead.*

hack down

hack down *sth* **hack** *sth* **down**

to roughly cut down something such as trees or plants: *We started to clear the garden, by hacking down trees and weeds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut down**

hack into

hack into *sth*

to use a computer to secretly and often illegally get into someone else's computer system without their permission, so that you can look at information: *An Edinburgh University a student used a simple desktop machine to hack into computers around the world.* | *Morris, 25, is charged under the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act with hacking into a federal computer network.*

hack off

1 **be hacked off**

BrE informal to feel very annoyed or angry: *I'm feeling really hacked off at work at the moment. They're expecting me to do loads of overtime for free.*

+ **with/about** *Fans are hacked off by the team's poor performance in recent games.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be pissed off** *informal*, **be fed up** *informal*

2 **hack off** *sth* **hack** *sth* **off**

to remove something by cutting it with a knife or something sharp, in a rough and careless way: *They started to hack off the dead branches.* | *One of his arms had been hacked off with a machete.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop off**

hack up

1 **hack up** *sth* **hack** *sth* **up**

to get something out of your throat or lungs by coughing violently: *It was a shock when I saw him sit up in bed and hack up some blood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cough up, bring up, spew up** *BrE informal*

2 **hack up** *sth* **hack** *sth* **up**

to cut something into pieces using a knife or something sharp, without being very careful about what you are doing: *John used the axe to hack up some of the larger pieces of wood, and we carefully built a small campfire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop up**

HAIL

hailed, hailed, hailing

hail as

hail *sb/sth* **as** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to publicly describe someone or something as being very good or special in a particular way, especially on television, radio, or in the newspapers: *Haydn was hailed as a genius only at the end of his life.* | *A new wonder-drug has been hailed as a breakthrough in the fight against cancer.* | *Auto safety advocates hailed the new seatbelt law as a victory.* | *Politicians in Bonn honored former French president Francois Mitterrand, hailing him as a loyal friend of Germany.*

hail from

hail from *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to come from a particular place or type of family – used especially in newspaper or television reports about people: *Joan hails from Newcastle, and her hobbies are reading and listening to music.* | *Both his parents hailed from prominent tobacco-growing families.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from**

H

HAM

hammed, hammed, hamming

ham up

ham it up | *informal*

to behave or perform in a silly or funny way or with a lot of false emotion, in order to get people's attention or entertain them: *Karpow was in a good mood at a news conference last Tuesday, hamming it up and chatting easily with reporters.*

+ **for** *On Christmas Eve night, he'll put on a Santa suit and ham it up for the kids.*

HAMMER

hammered, hammered, hammering

hammer at

hammer at | *sth*

especially AmE to keep talking about a particular subject, especially publicly, because you think it is important and want to attract people's attention to it: *Dole hammered at the latest statistics, showing that teenage drug use has more than doubled in the last four years.* | *Throughout the election campaign, Weld continued to hammer at the issues of crime, welfare and taxes.*

hammer away

1 **hammer away**

to hit something hard continuously, especially making a loud noise: *I could hear the workmen hammering away downstairs.* | *Fleisher has finally learned to play the piano properly, rather than hammering away with his fingers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang away**

2 **hammer away**

to work hard at something for a long time in a determined way: *It was incredibly boring work, but we hammered away on our ancient typewriters until it was done.*

+ **at** *Bill's got to finish the article by tomorrow, even if it means hammering away at it all night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bash away** *informal, especially BrE*, **slave away, slog away** *BrE informal*

3 **hammer away**

to keep talking about something a lot in order to persuade people to agree with you, understand how important it is etc: *"Keep hammering away," David said. "They'll see what we mean in the end."*

+ **at** *Clinton hammered away at the same issues throughout the election campaign.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang on** *BrE informal*, **go on** *informal*

hammer down

hammer down | *sth*   **hammer** | *sth* | **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to sell something at an auction. An auction is a public sale, where land and property are sold to the person who offers the most money for them

+ **for** *A painting by Van Gogh was hammered down for a record $53.9 million.*

hammer in/into

hammer | *sth* | **in**   **hammer** | *sth* | **into** | *sb*

to repeat something again and again so that people completely understand it or accept that it is true or right: *Principles of right and wrong have been hammered into us since childhood.* | *Just telling them once won't work. You've got to hammer it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drum into, drill into**

hammer out

hammer out | *sth*   **hammer** | *sth* | **out**

to get an agreement with another person, country, organization etc after a lot of discussion and argument: *The two sides met to try to hammer out a peace agreement.* | *A deal is being hammered out with the banks, to give Honduras more time to pay off its loans.* | *Recent talks are aimed at hammering out a treaty to be signed next June in Rio de Janeiro.*

* SIMILAR TO: **thrash out**

HAND

H

hand around
ALSO **hand round** *BrE*

hand around/round | *sth*

hand | *sth* | **around/round**

to give something, for example a drink, some food, or a piece of paper, to each person in a group: *I'm handing round a summary of last week's lecture.*

+ **to** *Sally put the chicken soup into bowls and handed them around to us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass around, hand out**

hand back

1 **hand back** | *sth*   **hand** | *sth* | **back**

to give something that you are holding back to someone after they have given it to you: *She handed back the money and told him she didn't want it.*

+ **to** *The customs officer looked at his passport and handed it back to him.*

hand sb back sth (=hand it back to them) *He asked Wainright to hand him back his piece of paper.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give back, return** *formal*

2 **hand back** *sth* **hand** *sth* **back**

to give something back to the person, organization, country etc that owns it, or that used to own it: *Japan wants Russia to hand back the islands, which were occupied at the end of World War II.*

+ to *Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1997.*

hand sb back sth (=hand it back to them) *Jewish families are trying to persuade Swiss banks to hand them back some of the money that was taken from them during the War.*

3 **hand back** *sb* **hand** *sb* **back**

to give someone such as a prisoner or a child back, for example to the country or family that they come from: *Chile wants Britain to hand back Pinochet, so that he can be tried in his own country.*

+ to *Thousands of Cossacks were handed back to the Communists, only to be shot or put in prison as soon as they arrived home.*

4 **hand you back to** *sb*

especially BrE spoken used by television reporters at the end of their report, to say that the programme is going back to the person who was speaking before: *This is Jon Snow in Washington, handing you back to Trevor McDonald.*

H

hand down

1 **hand down** *sth* **hand** *sth* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to give or teach something to someone, especially a younger member of your family, so that they will have it or know about it after you have died

+ from *ancient stories handed down from father to son* | *Traditional shipbuilding skills have been handed down from generation to generation.*

+ to *The ring had been handed down to her from her grandmother.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass down, pass on, hand on**

2 **hand down a decision/ judgment/sentence etc**

to announce an official decision, especially about the punishment that someone should receive: *The court is expected to hand down its judgment tomorrow morning.* | *Sentences of up to 16 years in prison were handed down to the people responsible for the attack.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give**

hand in

1 **hand in** *sth* **hand** *sth* **in**

to give something to someone in authority so that they can have it or deal with it: *I left my bag on the train, but luckily someone handed it in at the lost property office.* | *All foreign residents have been ordered to hand in their passports.* | *A group representing families of the British victims of the disaster handed in a petition to the Prime Minister calling for a public inquiry.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give in**

2 **hand in** *sth* **hand** *sth* **in**

to give written work to a teacher so that he or she can check it: *All assignments must be handed in by Friday.* | *"Have you finished your essay?" "I handed it in yesterday."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give in**

3 **hand in your resignation/notice**

to officially tell your employer that are leaving your job: *She's threatening to hand in her notice if they don't give her a rise.* | *Mr Chevenement handed in his resignation after a bitter clash with President Mitterand.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give in your resignation, resign, quit** *informal*

hand on

1 **hand on** *sth* **hand** *sth* **on**

BrE to give or teach something to someone, especially a younger member of your family, so that they will have it or know about it after you have died

+ from *The house, built in the fifteenth century, was handed on from one generation of the family to the next.*

+ to *Most of the young people have left the island now, so we cannot hand the old traditions on to them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass down, hand down, pass on**

2 **hand on** *sth* **hand** *sth* **on**

BrE to give something to someone else so that they can deal with it, look at it, or use it: *He handed the letter on to his lawyers.* | *Most people's income is taxed directly by their employers, who then hand on the money to the tax office.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass on**

hand out

1 **hand out** *sth* **hand** *sth* **out**

to give something such as a book, piece of paper etc to each of the people in a group or to people who are passing: *Doug came into the office and handed out invitations to his 40th birthday party.* | *Students were standing outside the station handing out anti-war leaflets.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give out, hand around**

handout N [C]
a piece of paper given to people who are attending a lesson, meeting etc, with information on it about the subject being taught or discussed: *As usual, Mr Collier started the lesson by passing round several handouts.*

2 **hand out** *sth* | **hand** *sth* **out**

to give something, especially money or food, to people who need it or for a particular purpose: *The organization hands out around $50,000 a year to young people with special educational needs.* | *This year the city is planning to hand out less than $1 billion in social and medical services.*

handout N [C]
money, food etc that is given to someone who needs it or for a particular purpose: *Darlington is planning three major improvement schemes, thanks to a $700,000 government handout.*

3 **hand out** *sth* | **hand** *sth* **out**

to give advice, information, criticism etc to someone: *Doctors are used to handing out advice to patients about family planning.* | *This time, Claudine was handing out heavy hints that I had kept her waiting too long.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give out**

4 **hand out** *sth* | **hand** *sth* **out**

to officially give someone a punishment: *Harsher punishments are being handed out to drunk drivers.* | *Watson showed no emotion when the judge handed out the sentence.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand down**

hand over

1 **hand over** *sth* | **hand** *sth* **over**

to give something to someone, especially after they have asked for it: *The robbers ordered him to hand over all his money.* | *Lucy handed over the car keys to Virginia and sat down in the passenger-seat.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give**

2 **hand over** *sth* | **hand** *sth* **over**

to give control or responsibility for something to another person, country, organization etc

+ to *Loncar gave in his resignation and handed over his duties to his deputy, Milivoje Maksic.* | *On 7 October 1949 the Russian occupation authorities formally handed over power to the new East German government.*

handover N [SINGULAR]
when control or responsibility for something is given to another person, country, organization etc: *the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese in 1997*

3 **hand** *sb* **over** | **hand over** *sb*

to give control or responsibility for someone, especially a prisoner or a child, to another person or authority: *Knight was due to be handed over to the Spanish authorities the next day.* | *The rebels made it clear that they would not hand over the hostages unless their demands were met.*

handover N [SINGULAR]
when a prisoner or child is given to someone else who will be responsible for looking after them: *Arrangements for a handover of prisoners have been made.*

hand over to

hand over to *sb*

to let another person speak in a discussion, news report etc after you have finished talking: *Now I'd like to hand over to Dave to tell his side of the story.*

hand round

SEE **hand around**

HANG

hung, hung, hanging

hang about

1 **hang about** | **hang about** *sth*

BrE to spend time somewhere not doing anything, for example because you have nothing to do, or because you are waiting for something or someone: *Daisy hung about until Drew and the team came back to the Land-Rover.* | *Normally he hung about the house during the day, and went out just before his father got back home.*

keep sb hanging about (=make someone have to wait somewhere for a long time, especially in a way that is annoying) *They kept us hanging about at the airport for nearly 5 hours.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang around**

2 **hang about** USUALLY NEGATIVE

BrE spoken to be slow to start doing something, or to move slowly: *The boss wants it done by this afternoon, so you'd better not hang about.* | *He wasn't hanging about. He must have been doing well over 100 miles an hour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang around**

3 **hang about!**

a *BrE spoken informal* used when you suddenly think of something that you want to say or ask and you want the person you are with to listen to you: *Hang about! Where did she get all the money from?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on!** *spoken informal*

H

b *BrE spoken informal* used to tell someone to stop and wait for you: *Hang about! Can I come too?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on** *spoken informal*

hang about together/with

hang about together

hang about with *sb*

BrE informal to spend a lot of time with someone and be friendly with them: *We used to hang about together when we were young. | Jim tends to hang about with older people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang around together/with**

hang around ALSO hang round *BrE*

hang around/round USUALLY NEGATIVE

to be slow to start doing something or to move slowly: *The doctor didn't hang around. He picked up the phone and ordered an ambulance straightaway. | There are only a few more tickets left, so you'd better not hang around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang about** *BrE*

hang around ALSO hang round *BrE*

1 **hang around/round**

hang around/round *sth*

to spend time somewhere not doing anything, for example because you have nothing to do, or because you are waiting for something or someone: *A crowd of photographers had begun hanging around outside the courtroom. | There's no point hanging round this town any longer. Let's get out of here.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang about** *BrE*

2 **hang around/round**

hang around/round *sb*

to spend a lot of time with someone, especially when they do not want you to be with them: *When you're famous you get all kinds of people hanging round you trying to get your money. | Diane was fed up with him hanging around all the time, and told him to go and get a life.*

3 **hang around/round**

hang around/round *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something is hanging around, it is not being used or has not been dealt with: *I'm sure I've got an old pair of walking boots hanging around somewhere at home. | There are still one or two problems hanging around unresolved.*

hang around together/with ALSO hang round together/with *BrE*

hang around/round together

hang around/round with *sb*

informal to spend a lot of time with someone and be friendly with them: *They used to hang around together a lot when they were at college. | I joined the Scouts because it was fun to hang around with my friends and go on camping trips.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang about together/with** *BrE informal*

hang back

1 **hang back**

to not move forward, especially because you are nervous, shy, or worried about what will happen: *When the children reached the school entrance, they stopped and hung back. | Ruth hung back and peered through the open front door, for fear of being seen.*

2 **hang back**

to not do something or to wait before doing something, especially because you do not want to do it or you are worried about what will happen

+ from doing sth *People are hanging back from demanding full independence, because they feel uncertain about the future.*

there was no hanging back (=someone did something immediately without hesitating) *On their first date he was very shy and unsure of himself, but this time there was no hanging back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

hang in

hang in there

AmE informal to keep trying even when you seem unlikely to succeed at something or the situation is difficult: *Running has taught me to hang in there until the whistle is blown – I don't give up. | Just hang in there, Mr. Mieuli, things will get better.*

hang on

1 **hang on** USUALLY IN COMMANDS

spoken informal to wait for something or someone for a short time: *Hang on while I turn down the radio, I can't hear what you're saying. | I suppose I could hang on here till she comes back.*

hang on a minute/second *Hang on a minute! We're just coming!*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold on** *spoken informal*, **wait**

H

2 **hang on!**

spoken informal used when you suddenly think of something that you want to say or ask, or when you are surprised by something that someone has just said: *Hang on! Why don't we go tomorrow instead? The roads will be much less busy.*

hang on a minute/second *Now hang on a minute! I thought you said that you didn't need any more money!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold on!** *spoken informal*

3 **hang on** *sth*

to depend on the result of something in order to be successful: *Everything hangs on the next game. If England lose, they're out of the World Cup.* | *With $30 billion of trade hanging on the agreement, both countries are hoping that a compromise can be reached.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **depend on, hinge on**

4 **hang on**

to hold something tightly, for example so that you do not fall or you do not lose what you are holding: *The bus went around a sharp bend, and we all had to hang on tight.* | *The boy tried to get away, but she hung on and refused to let go.*

hang on for dear life (=hang on very tightly, especially because you are very worried that you will fall) *The boat was going up and down, and we were all hanging on for dear life.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold on, cling on**

5 **hang on** *sb's* **every word**

to listen carefully to what someone is saying because you are very interested or excited: *I could see that the children were hanging on his every word and waiting to find out what happened at the end of the story.*

6 **hang on**

to continue doing what you have been doing until now – used especially to say that is difficult to do this: *Everyone is wondering if the President can hang on for another year.* | *The economy's in a bad way, and some firms are barely hanging on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **survive**

7 **hang on**

if someone hangs on, they continue to live, even though they are very ill and are expected to die soon: *He hung on throughout the night, with his family at his bedside.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold on**

8 **hang** *sth* **on** *sb*

AmE to blame something on someone, often in an unfair way: *The 49ers' first field-goal was blocked; but you can't hang that on kicker Mike Cofer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **blame**

hang on to/onto

1 **hang on to/onto** *sth*

to succeed in keeping something, even though there is a danger that you will lose what you are holding: *The Republicans managed to hang on to their majority in the Senate.* | *Billy was struggling to hang on to his dignity. He felt he had made a complete fool of himself.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep, hold onto**

2 **hang on to/onto** *sth*

to hold something tightly, for example so that you do not fall or you do not lose it: *The little girl hung on to her mother's arm.* | *The driver hung onto the steering wheel and somehow managed to bring the truck to halt.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold onto, cling to/cling onto**

3 **hang on to/onto** *sth*

to keep something and not sell it, give it to someone, or get rid of it: *It's a beautiful painting. You should hang on to it – it might be worth a lot of money.* | *She showed me a photo from their honeymoon, which she had hung onto for all these years.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep, hold onto**

hang out

1 **hang out** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something is hanging out, part of it is not inside the place where it should be or is where it usually is, and this makes you notice it: *Your shirt's hanging out!* (=it is not in your trousers) | *Tigger was now running round in circles with his tongue hanging out.*

H

2 **hang out** *sth* **hang** *sth* **out**

to hang clothes somewhere outside in order to dry them: *Mrs Drake was hanging out the washing in the backyard.*

3 **hang out**

informal, especially AmE to spend a lot of time somewhere or with someone, relaxing and enjoying yourself: *The cafe was a place where students and musicians hung out.* | *On the weekend he plays golf and hangs out at the club.*

+ with *I was just hanging out with some friends and having a good time.*

+ together *Tom and Nicole spent a lot of time hanging out together on the set.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **relax, chill out** *spoken informal*

hangout N [C]
a place where someone goes often in order to relax and meet other people, especially one used by a particular type of person: *The bar was a well-known hangout for hippies and junkies.*

4 **let it all hang out**

old-fashioned informal to relax and do whatever you want, without worrying about what other people think: *The 1960s was the time of Peace and Love, when people were letting it all hang out.*

hang over

1 **hang over** *sb/sth*

if something unpleasant hangs over you, it seems likely to happen or is going to happen soon and it makes you feel worried about what will happen: *In 1962 the threat of nuclear war hung over the whole world.* | *Gascoigne wasn't playing very well, and he still had the divorce hanging over him.*

2 **hang over** *sth*

if doubts hang over something, people do not feel sure that it will happen or be successful: *A big question mark still hangs over Japan's economic recovery.*

hang round *BrE*

SEE **hang around**

hang together

1 **hang together**

if something such as a book, film, plan etc hangs together, it is good because it is well-organized and all its parts are successful together: *Somehow, I didn't think that the book really hung together.* | *It wasn't until 'Sergeant Pepper' that the band finally produced an album which hung together.*

H

2 **hang together**

if people hang together, they stay together and help each other to achieve something: *We hung together and came back to win the game.*

hang up

1 **hang up** **hang up** *sth*

to end a telephone conversation by putting the part of the telephone that you speak into back in its usual place: *She said "I'll be there in a minute," and hung up.*

+ on *Listen, I'm really sorry. Don't hang up on me!*

hang up the phone *He hung up the phone feeling angry and upset.*

2 **hang up** *sth* **hang** *sth* **up**

to hang things such as clothes on a hook or other object: *Marlow hung up his coat and went through into his office.* | *His wife had always ironed his shirts, polished his shoes, and hung up his clothes for him. How would he survive without her?*

3 **hang up** *sth* **hang** *sth* **up**

if someone hangs up the equipment they use to do a job, sport etc, they stop doing the job or sport after doing it for a long time: *After 25 years in the police force he finally decided to hang up his badge and take early retirement.* | *Lee Trevino says he has no plans to hang up his spikes* (=shoes he uses for playing golf).

4 **be hung up on/about** *sth*

informal to be very worried about or interested in something and spend a lot of time thinking about it, especially when this seems unreasonable: *Like most teenagers I was hung up about my weight and was permanently on a diet.*

get hung up on/about sth *Why do men get so hung up on the size of their car's engine?*

hang-up N [C]

if you have a hang-up about something, you feel unreasonably worried or embarrassed about it: *He has a hang-up about his nose. He thinks it's abnormally big.* | *All parents want their children to grow up happy, balanced and free from hang-ups.*

5 **hang** *sb/sth* **up** **hang up** *sb/sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

AmE to delay someone or something: *Sorry we're late. We got a late start and then traffic on 84 hung us up a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delay**

6 **hang it up**

AmE to stop doing a particular activity or type of work: *One day in 1986, Fred went into the boss's office and announced: "I'm hanging it up."*

* SIMILAR TO: **quit**

7 **be hung up on** *sb*

AmE informal to be very attracted to someone and not be able to change your feelings about them: *"Shannon still seems to be hung up on Jeff." "Yeah, I guess it's only been five weeks since they broke up."*

* SIMILAR TO: **be stuck on sb** *AmE informal*

hang with

hang with *sb*

AmE informal to spend a lot of time somewhere or with someone, relaxing and enjoying yourself: *Royce usually had to hang with his brother's friends because no-one his age lived in the neighbourhood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang out, hang about/around with**

HANKER

hankered, hankered, hankering

hanker after/for

hanker after/for *sth*

to want something very much, especially something that it is difficult for you to get: *Now and then I really hanker for big home-cooked meals.* | *It's always better to have money than to hanker after it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for, crave**

HAPPEN

happened, happened, happening

happen along/by

1 **happen along/by**

to arrive or be passing somewhere by chance: *Fortunately a policeman on patrol happened by.* | *Miguel felt so angry that he was ready to quarrel with anyone who happened along.*

2 **happen along/by**

AmE to find a place or thing by chance: *Rather than checking every aircraft, many inspectors simply examine whatever plane they happen by while on duty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **happen on/upon**

happen on/upon

happen upon *sth/sb* **happen on** *sth/sb*

formal to find something or meet someone when you do not expect it: *Once or twice I happened on her in the middle of the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across, happen on/upon**

happen to

1 **happen to** *sb/sth*

if an event or action happens to someone or something, they are involved in it or affected by it: *You'll never believe what happened to me on the way home.* | *We lost our home in the war, and the same thing happened to thousands of families.* | *Something's happened to the washing machine – it's not working properly.*

2 **what/whatever happened to** *sb*

spoken used when you want to know where someone is and what they are doing, because it is a long time since you saw them: *Whatever happened to that nice girl you were going out with when I last saw you?*

* SIMILAR TO: **what became of**

3 **what/whatever happened to** *sth*

used when saying that something such as an idea, quality, or custom seems to have disappeared or been forgotten about: *Whatever happened to the lunch hour? No one seems to have time for lunch nowadays.*

HARDEN

be hardened to

be hardened to *sth*

to have become so familiar with something unpleasant that you do not feel upset by it any more: *The first time she saw an operation she nearly fainted, but now she was hardened to it.* | *He was a trained killer, who had become hardened to death on innumerable battlefields.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be inured to sth** *formal*

HARE

hared, hared, haring

hare off

hare off

BrE informal to suddenly run away, or go somewhere very quickly, often without thinking about whether this is a sensible thing to do: *Then Jack scrambled to his feet and hared off between the trees.* | *We can't just go haring off into the city at this time of night.*

HARK

harked, harked, harking

hark at

hark at him/her/you etc

BrE spoken used when you think someone has just said something silly, surprising, or unreasonable, especially because they have criticized someone for doing something that they do themselves: *Hark at her, telling me I shouldn't drink so much when she's in the pub most evenings!*

hark back to

1 **hark back to** *sth*

to remember or keep talking about a time or event in the past, especially in an annoying way: *The people are always harking back to the good old days before independence.* | *If it was such a rotten holiday, why hark back to it?*

2 **hark back to** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be similar to something that existed or was fashionable in the past: *The newest shoe styles hark back to the seventies.*

HARP

harped, harped, harping

harp on

harp on about *sth* *BrE* **harp on** *sth* *AmE*

to talk about something so much that it is boring or annoying: *He was one of those old guys who are constantly harping on about the war.* | *Chico's main interest was football and he couldn't stop harping on about the subject.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on about sth** *informal*, **bang on about sth** *BrE informal*

HARSH

harshed, harshed, harshing

harsh on

harsh on *sb*

AmE informal to criticize or insult someone: *My girlfriend harshed on me for not calling soon enough.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **criticize**

HASH

hashed, hashed, hashing

hash out

hash out *sth* **hash** *sth* **out**

AmE informal to discuss the details of a plan, idea etc with someone and solve any problems it may have: *As we hashed out the deal, people on the trading floor began to grow curious.* | *Baker and Shevardnadze met in Houston to hash out the remaining issues in the arms agreement.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **work out**

hash over

hash *sth* **over** **hash over** *sth*

especially AmE to talk about something in detail for a long time: *Officials met to hash over the future of public TV.* | *Music fans meet here to hash over lyrics and exchange concert stories.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **discuss**

hash up

hash *sth* **up** **hash up** *sth*

BrE informal to do something very badly, especially with the result that you are unsuccessful: *She was so nervous at the interview that she completely hashed it up.* | *Do your best – we can't afford to hash up this match.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **make a hash of sth** *informal*

H

HATCH

hatched, hatched, hatching

hatch out

hatch out

if birds, insects etc hatch out, or an egg hatches out, the baby animal breaks its shell and comes out of the egg: *After a few days there were dozens of fluffy chicks hatching out.*

HAUL

hauled, hauled, hauling

haul before

be hauled before/in front of *sb*

to be forced to appear in a court of law or to see someone in authority, so that they can decide whether you have broken a law or rules etc and punish you if necessary: *Stephens was the first airline pilot to be hauled before a criminal court and convicted of negligence.* | *He was hauled up in front of the headmaster and asked to explain his behaviour.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hauled up**

haul in

1 **haul** *sb* **in**

if the police haul someone in, they take that person to the police station to answer questions about something illegal they have done: *The police can't just haul someone in if they haven't got any evidence against them.*

+ for *Labourers were continually being hauled in for petty crime and drunkenness.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **arrest**

2 **haul in** *sth* **haul** *sth* **in**

to pull something heavy towards you using a rope, for example a fishing net or sails: *The fishermen were hauling in their nets and getting ready to go home.*

3 **haul in** *sth*

to earn or obtain a lot of something, especially money: *The company hauled in $500 million in sales last year.*

haul off

haul *sb* **off**

to take someone away somewhere, using force: *A big male nurse came up and hauled Tom off.*

+ to *I was handcuffed and hauled off to the County jail.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drag off**

haul up

be hauled up

to be forced to appear in a court of law or to see someone in authority, so that they can decide whether you have broken a law or rule, and punish you if necessary

+ **for** *Her grandfather was hauled up for tax evasion.*

+ **before/in front of** *Bar staff who serve drunk drivers are liable to get hauled up in front of the local magistrate.*

HAVE

had, had, having

have against

have *sth* **against** *sb/sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to dislike or disapprove of someone or something for a particular reason, for example because they have done something wrong in the past: *I can't see what you have against Alex's friends.*

have nothing against sb/sth (=used to say that there is nothing you dislike or disapprove of about someone or something) *Potter had nothing against the monarchy, in principle.*

have around
ALSO have round *BrE*

have *sb* **around/round**

have *sb* **around/round** *sb/sth*

to have someone near you or available to help you if necessary: *It's a help to have your family around when you've got a new baby.* | *Just the thought of having her around the place made him irritable.*

have at

1 **have at it**

AmE spoken informal used to encourage someone to do or try something: *"If that's what you want, have at it," said Marvin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go for it**

2 **have at it**

AmE informal to fight or attack someone: *The brothers both looked ready to have at it, but something held them back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fight**

have away

have it away

BrE informal to have sex with someone – often used humorously: *They were having it away in the back of her car.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have it off** *BrE spoken informal*

have back

1 **have** *sth* **back**

to have something that you had before because someone has given it to you: *I don't need the book anymore – you can have it back if you like.*

2 **have** *sb* **back**

to agree to start to have a romantic relationship with someone again after you have separated from them: *Do you think he'd have her back after all she's done?*

have down as

have *sb* **down as** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to think that someone or something has a particular character, especially when you later find out that you were wrong: *I didn't have her down as the motherly type.* | *Until then we all had him down as a bit of a wimp.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consider, put down as**

have in

1 **have** *sb* **in**

to get builders, workers etc to come to your house to do some work on it for you: *We've already had an architect in to look at the plans.* | *The people next door to us have had the builders in all week. They've made a mess of our drive.*

2 **have** *sb* **in**

to invite someone to come to your house for a meal, drink, conversation etc

+ **for** *Last night we had Miles and Susan in for a meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have over**

have off

1 **have** *sth* **off**

if you have a light, the heating etc off, you do not use it: *The car in front had its lights off.* | *It's been so warm we've had the heating off.*

2 **have it off**

BrE informal to have sex with someone: *They were having it off in the bushes.* | *Didn't you know that Pete was having it off with Nicola?*

* SIMILAR TO: **have it away** *BrE spoken informal*

have on

1 **have** *sth* **on** **have on** *sth*

NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

to be wearing something: *Everyone in the room had a dark suit on except me.* | *When we picked her up, she had on a red skirt and high heels.*

have nothing on/not have anything on *Don't come in! I don't have anything on!*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear**

2 **have** *sth* **on** NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if you have the radio, television, light etc on, you use it and it is working: *Are we allowed to have the TV on? | We're having the heating on at night at the moment.*

3 **be having** *sb* **on**

BrE informal to pretend to someone that something is true when it is not, as a joke: *When he told me he was a nuclear physicist, I thought he was having me on. | Tim's having you on, Mary. Don't take any notice of him.*

4 **have** *sth* **on you** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to have something in your pockets, bag etc: *Do you have any money on you? I've left mine in the car. | The police searched her and let her go. She had nothing on her.*

5 **have** *sth* **on** NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

BrE to have an arrangement to do something: *What about tomorrow lunchtime? I haven't anything on then.*

have a lot on (=be very busy) *Jo seems to have a lot on at the moment.*

6 **have something on** *sb*

to have information about someone that shows they have been involved with something bad or illegal: *I think the police must have something on him.*

have nothing on sb/not have anything on sb *"He's not on our records," the detective said, "We've got nothing on him."*

have out

1 **have** *sth* **out**

if you have a tooth or a part of your body out, a dentist or doctor removes it. A dentist is a kind of doctor who looks after people's teeth: *I hate having my teeth out. | She was rushed to hospital to have her appendix out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have sth removed**

2 **have it out with** *sb*

informal to try to end a disagreement or a difficult situation by talking to the person who you are angry with and telling them why you are angry: *Joe's really upset. He's going to see Mum and have it out with her right now. | We had to wait till the kids were asleep before we could have it out.*

have over
ALSO **have round** *especially BrE*

have *sb* **over/round**

to invite someone to come to your house for a meal, drink, conversation etc: *We had some people round at the weekend. | Is it all right if I have a few friends over this evening?*

have round

SEE **have around**

SEE **have over**

be had up for

be had up for *sth*

BrE informal to be taken to court because you have committed a crime or are thought to have been involved in criminal activities: *Sarah was had up for theft when she was only 14.*

HAWK

hawked, hawked, hawking

hawk around/about
ALSO **hawk round** *BrE*

hawk *sth* **around/about**

hawk *sth* **around** *sth*

hawk *sth* **round** *sth*

BrE to try to sell something by taking it to different places and offering it to different people: *The fishermen used a horse and cart to hawk fish round the villages. | Apparently she's hawking her story around for a six-figure sum.*

HAZE

hazed, hazed, hazing

haze over

haze over

if the sky, a view etc hazes over, a slight mist forms and the sky or view becomes less clear: *The sun went down, the sky hazed over, and it was time to go home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cloud over**

HEAD

headed, headed, heading

head for

1 **head for** *sth*

to travel towards a place: *The ships were heading for Cuba. | We climbed on our horses, and headed for the hills.*

be headed for sth *especially AmE* (=be travelling towards a place) *The men said they were headed for the next town which was about 50 miles away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make for**

2 **be heading for** ALSO **be headed for** *sth* *especially AmE*

if someone or something is heading for a

particular situation, it seems likely that it will happen in the future: *Fashion designer Fern McGill is heading for a brilliant career.* | *The personal computer industry is heading for slower growth.* | *India was headed for a period of political uncertainty.*

head into

head into | *sth*

to start a period of time or a situation that is completely new and often difficult: *As we head into the new millennium, we will see considerable changes in medical care.*

head off

1 **head off**

to leave in order to go somewhere or do something: *We all packed into the car and headed off to the library.* | *The film ends with Parker heading off to join the army in Germany.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off**

2 **head off** | *sth*   **head** | *sth* | **off**

to prevent something unpleasant from happening: *Talks continued throughout the night in the hope of heading off the strike.* | *a last-minute attempt to head off a war*

* SIMILAR TO: **prevent**

3 **head off** | *sth*   **head** | *sth* | **off**

to try to make someone or something change their direction, by blocking their way: *A policeman held out his arms to head them off.* | *The man was running for the woods when the car left the roadway to head him off.*

head out

head out

especially AmE to leave in order to go somewhere or do something: *He found a taxi and headed out to Dean's house.*

head up

head up | *sth*   **head** | *sth* | **up**

to lead an organization, team, or project: *Norling is moving to France to head up Motorstart Europe.* | *Goldman praised his team of attorneys, headed up by Daniel Petrocelli.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead**

HEAL

healed, healed, healing

heal up/over

heal up/over

if a wound or injury heals up, the damaged part of the body returns to a healthy normal condition: *Apply a little antiseptic and the wound will probably heal up all by itself.* | *The bird's beak appeared to have been broken and then healed over.*

HEAP

heaped, heaped, heaping

heap on/upon

● **Heap upon** is more formal than **heap on** and is mostly used in writing.

heap | *sth* | **on** | *sb/sth*

heap | *sth* | **upon** | *sb/sth*

if you heap praise, blame etc on someone or something, you praise or blame them a lot: *The newspapers heaped praise on the police for their part in the investigation.* | *Their political opponents heaped scorn on their policies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lavish on**

heap up

heap | *sth* | **up**   **heap up** | *sth*

to put a lot of things on top of each other in a pile: *Mr Rocke looked at all the papers heaped up in his in-tray.* | *We heaped up the fruit and vegetables ready to take home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pile up**

HEAR

heard, heard, hearing

hear about

hear about | *sth/sb*

to get news or information about something or someone: *We were both in London when we heard about the accident.* | *After hearing about the boy's illness, the charity raised £5,000 to pay for his medical treatment.*

be sorry to hear about sb (=used to express sadness when someone is ill or has died etc) *I was so sorry to hear about your mother, Lisa.*

hear from

1 **hear from** | *sb* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to get a letter or a telephone call from someone: *Please keep the letters coming, Mike. We so enjoy hearing from you.* | *I haven't heard from Maria in a while. Not even a phone call.*

I look forward to hearing from you (=used at the end of a letter)

2 **hear from** | *sb*   **hear** | *sth* | **from** | *sb*

to receive information from someone about something that has happened, or be told what people's ideas or opinions are about something: *Their comments were similar to*

H

those I have heard from other art teachers. | The police would like to hear from anyone who was in the area when the robbery took place. | If you have any ideas or suggestions about a suitable name for the award, we'd love to hear from you.

hear of

1 **have heard of** *sb/sth*

to have heard the name of a person, place etc before, so that you recognize it when you hear it again: *Everybody's heard of Paul Gascoigne. | "You know Piers Morrison?" "No, never heard of him." | Terry said he'd never heard of Fresno, California.*

2 **hear of** *sth*

to get news or information about something, so that you know it exists or is possible: *You sometimes hear of people having very strange experiences when they are close to death. | I've never heard of a deal like this where the author gets 50% of the profits. | He had heard of a seaplane service from Naples to Capri.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hear about**

3 **be heard of**

if someone has been heard of in a particular place, they have been seen in that place and so people know that they are still alive

be last heard of *The former Hollywood star was last heard of somewhere in Florida.*

never be heard of again *He disappeared into the icy wastes, and was never heard of again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be seen**

H

4 **won't/wouldn't hear of** *sth*

to refuse to allow something, or refuse to accept someone's offer: *My mother had wanted to be a doctor but her father wouldn't hear of it. | Jack offered to walk her home, but she wouldn't hear of it.*

5 **be unheard of**

if something is unheard of, it has never happened before and is therefore very surprising or shocking: *A woman Prime Minister! Such a thing was unheard of until recently.*

6 **be unheard of**

not known about by people, or not famous: *Two years ago his name was almost unheard of in this country.*

hear out

hear *sb* **out**

to listen to what someone wants to say, without trying to interrupt them: *Corbett heard Frances out in silence. "You poor thing," he said at last. | Hear me out first, Jane, and then you can say what you think.*

HEAT

heated, heated, heating

heat through

heat through *sth* | **heat** *sth* **through** | **heat through**

BrE if you heat food through or if it heats through, you make it hot: *The rice may be prepared in advance and heated through later. | Finally stir in the tomato paste and let the mixture heat through.*

heat up

1 **heat up** | **heat up** *sth* | **heat** *sth* **up**

to become hotter, or to make something become hotter: *The lake is shallow, so the water heats up very quickly in the summer. | We know that the effects of pollution may be heating up the Earth's climate.*

* SIMILAR TO: **warm up**

2 **heat up** *sth* | **heat** *sth* **up**

to make cooked food hot again after it has become cold: *She heated up some more of the stew and took it out to him. | It's so easy to just pull something out of the freezer and heat it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **warm up**

3 **heat up**

if a situation heats up, it becomes more serious or more exciting, because people start to argue, fight, or compete with each other a lot more: *Things are starting to heat up in central Europe, and people are worried that there could be another World War. | The company is experiencing some difficulty as competition heats up. | Although the election is still a year away, the political scene is already heating up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hot up** *informal BrE*

HEAVE

hove, hove, heaving
heaved, heaved, heaving

heave to

heave to

if a ship or boat heaves to, it stops, especially by using its sails: *About two miles from the coast, the ship hove to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop**

heaved, heaved, heaving

heave up

heave up | **heave up** *sth* | **heave** *sth* **up**

to bring food up from your stomach because you are ill: *The smell was so disgusting that I*

bent over and heaved up. | The boy was lying in bed, heaving up blood.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **vomit, puke up** *informal*, **throw up** *informal*

HEDGE

hedged, hedged, hedging

hedge about

SEE **be hedged about/round**

hedge against

hedge against *sth*

to do something to protect yourself against possible problems or financial changes: *Analysts have suggested a number of ways to hedge against a major downturn in the US stock market.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **guard against**

be hedged about/around

be hedged about/around

to be limited or controlled by a lot of complicated rules, laws, or conditions, which make it difficult for you to do something effectively

+ by *Nowadays employment is hedged about by legislation.*

+ with *The peacekeeping force was hedged around with restrictions.*

be hedged in

be hedged in *BrE*

a to be surrounded or enclosed by something, so that there is very little space: *The cathedral is in the centre of the town, closely hedged in by other buildings. | Ms Hurley's feet were hedged in by sacks of potatoes and baskets of fruit.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hemmed in**

b to be prevented from having the freedom or opportunity to do what you want: *Why don't you look for another job if you feel hedged in where you are?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hemmed in**

HEEL

heeled, heeled, heeling

heel over

heel over

if a boat or vehicle heels over, it swings over to one side as if it is going to fall: *The wind hit the sails and the boat heeled over. | There was a thump as the truck hit the bank, heeled over, then bounced back into the road.*

HELP

helped, helped, helping

help along

1 **help** *sb/sth* **along**

to make it easier for something to happen or for someone to succeed: *His career was helped along by his manager, who was a personal friend. | Computers can certainly help along the learning process.*

2 **help** *sb* **along**

to help someone to walk when they are injured or ill, by holding their arm: *Tess was pale and breathless. He took her arm and helped her along.*

help off with

help *sb* **off with** *sth*

to help someone to take off their coat, shoes etc: *Can I help you off with your coat? | She helped him off with his wet things.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **help on with**

help on with

help *sb* **on with** *sth*

to help someone to put on their coat, shoes etc: *Do you want me to help you on with those boots?*

● OPPOSITE: **help off with**

help out

help out | **help** *sb* **out** | **help out** *sb*

to help someone, especially by doing some work for them or giving them money: *As a teenager he had helped out at his family's garage. | When I was unemployed, my mother helped me out. | Mr Shirati left the firm after agreeing to help out an old friend who was ill.*

+ with *The Ministry of Agriculture have offered to help out with the extra costs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **help**

help to

1 **help yourself to** *sth*

a to take and use something, especially food and drink, whenever you want it: *Help yourself to whatever's in the fridge. | He said I could help myself to his jackets and ties while he was away.*

b to put some food on your own plate or drink in your own glass: *Help yourselves to the vegetables.*

2 **help** *sb* **to** *sth*

to put some food on someone else's plate for them, or put drink in their glass: *Shall I help you to some rice?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **serve**

H

help up

help *sb* **up**

to help someone to stand up: *Furness put out his hand to help her up.* | *He lay on the ice for a few minutes before being helped up and skating off.*

HEM

hemmed, hemmed, hemming

hem in

be hemmed in

a to be surrounded or enclosed by something, so that it is difficult for you to move, or there is very little space: *Frankie felt small and feeble, hemmed in by five broad-shouldered workmen.* | *The park was hemmed in by tall buildings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hedged in**

b to be prevented from having the freedom or opportunity to do what you want: *If employees feel hemmed in, they become frustrated and angry.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hedged in**

HERD

herded, herded, herding

herd together

herd together *sb/sth*

herd *sb/sth* **together** | **herd together**

to gather people or animals together into a group, or to gather together in a group: *The prisoners were herded together into the courtyard.* | *The sheep were frightened and herded together in a corner of the field.*

herd up

herd up *sb/sth* | **herd** *sb/sth* **up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to gather people or animals together into a group, especially in order to check them or take them somewhere: *Once a year, all the horses and cattle are herded up and counted.* | *Only two of our group escaped; the rest were herded up and taken for questioning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **round up**

HEW

hewed, hewn, hewing

hew out

hew *sth* **out** | **hew out** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE literary to make something by cutting it out of something hard, like rock or wood: *The caves are man-made, hewn out of the rock by hand.* | *The cross was roughly hewn out of wood.*

hew to

hew to *sth*

AmE to strongly believe in or follow particular ideas, rules, or principles: *As a politician, he hewed to a moderate course that didn't upset the majority.* | *It wasn't the idea itself that impressed us, but the determination with which he hewed to it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to, pursue**

HIDE

hid, hidden, hiding

hide away

1 **hide** *sth/sb* **away** | **hide away** *sth/sb*

to put something or someone in a place where other people will not find them or know about them: *I've hidden your presents away where you can't find them.* | *He knew his grandparents had plenty of money hidden away.* | *The baby girl was taken and hidden away in the country.*

2 **hide yourself away/hide away**

to go somewhere where you can be alone or where you cannot be seen or found: *Novelists often hide themselves away for months at a time.* | *Wild animals tend to hide away when they are ill or injured.*

+ **from** *She wanted to hide away from the rest of the world and be alone.*

hideaway N [C]

a secret place where you can go when you want to be alone: *Vernon has a secluded hideaway in a remote coastal area of Scotland.* | *an island hideaway*

3 **be hidden away**

to be built or placed in a very quiet peaceful area, where few people live or go: *Hidden away in the countryside is Britain's newest and most luxurious health resort.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be tucked away**

hide behind

1 **hide behind** *sth*

if someone hides behind a particular way of behaving, they behave like that so that people will not know what they are really like or what they really think: *Jeremy tends to hide behind a mask of extreme politeness.*

2 **hide** *sth* **behind** *sth*

to not show what you are really feeling or thinking, because your appearance or behaviour hides it: *Paula quickly hid her embarrassment behind a bright smile.*

hide out

hide out

to go or stay somewhere secret, especially in order to escape from the police or your enemies: *The police are looking for an armed man, probably wounded, probably hiding out nearby.* | *The rest of the men hid out, waiting for the arrival of more troops.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide**

hideout N [C]
a place where someone goes when they do not want to be found, especially by the police or their enemies: *The suspects were tracked down to a Bombay hideout.*

HIKE

hiked, hiked, hiking

hike up

1 **hike** *sth* **up** | **hike up** *sth*

to pull up a piece of clothing you are wearing so that it is higher up your body than before: *The women were crossing the river, their skirts hiked up over their knees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hitch up, pull up**

2 **hike up** *sth*

informal to increase a price or other sum of money suddenly and by a large amount: *The Central Bank hiked up interest rates in early December.* | *The government hiked up the price of petrol by over 5%.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise**

HINGE

hinged, hinged, hinging

hinge on/upon

● **Hinge upon** is more formal than **hinge on** and is mostly used in writing

1 **hinge on/upon** *sth*

if one thing hinges on another, its future or progress depends on it: *A student's job prospects can hinge on his performance in these exams.* | *The deal really hinges on these negotiations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on**

2 **hinge on/upon** *sth*

if a story or situation hinges on an idea or fact, its success depends on understanding or accepting it: *The whole plot of the movie hinges on what happens in the first scene.* | *Our relationship hinged on my agreeing with whatever he said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on, hang on**

HINT

hinted, hinted, hinting

hint at

hint at *sth*

to suggest that something is true or likely without saying it directly: *In his speech the President hinted at the possible use of force.* | *Sally looked worried. "What are you hinting at, Gus?"*

+ what/where/why etc *Sometimes my mother hinted at why she'd left my father, but that was all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **imply**

HIRE

hired, hired, hiring

hire out

1 **hire out** *sth/sb* | **hire** *sth/sb* **out**

BrE to allow someone to use a building, a piece of equipment, or someone's services in return for money: *Mr and Mrs Ledingham were partners in a business that hired out photocopiers.* | *Our agency hires out technical staff to companies.* | *Tony plans to hire the house out for weddings and film work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rent out**

2 **hire out** *sth* | **hire** *sth* **out**

BrE if you hire out equipment, buildings etc, you pay someone to allow you to use them: *On the shores of this lake you can hire out boats or canoes, as well as take courses in watersports.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hire**

HIT

hit, hit, hitting

hit at

1 **hits at** *sb/sth*

BrE to publicly criticize or attack someone or something – used especially in the titles of newspaper reports: *President hits at Serb aggression in Kosovo* | *Amnesty International hits at treatment of political prisoners in Iraq*

* SIMILAR TO: **criticize, attack**

2 **hit at** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to have a bad effect on something and damage it or show that it is wrong: *This hits at the established idea that there is no legal limit to Parliament's power.*

hit back

hit back

to criticize or attack a person or group, especially publicly, because they have criticized

or attacked you: *The multi-millionaire has already hit back by threatening to take the newspaper to court.*

+ at *Police last night hit back at the lawyer's claim that they had mishandled the arrest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strike back**

hit off

hit it off

informal if two or more people hit it off, they like each other as soon as they meet each other and become friends very easily: *Frank took me out to dinner and we really hit it off straight away.*

+ with *I didn't hit it off with the office manager.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get on well** *especially BrE*

hit on/upon

● **Hit upon** is more formal than **hit on** and is mostly used in writing

1 **hit on/upon** *sth*

to think of an idea or plan, especially one that is successful: *They tried various methods before hitting on the right one.* | *James Robertson, a Paisley grocer, hit on the idea of making marmalade from a barrel of bitter oranges he could not sell.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up with**

2 **hit on/upon** *sth*

to discover the true facts about a situation, the real reason for something etc: *James felt sure that he had hit on the truth.* | *You've hit on precisely the thing that's worrying me most.*

H

hit on

hit on *sb*

AmE spoken informal to talk to someone in a way that shows you think they are sexually attractive: *This weird guy hit on every woman on our floor in the first week of college.* | *A sixteen-year-old chick was hitting on him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chat up**

hit out

hit out

especially BrE to criticize something or someone strongly because you disapprove of them – used especially in news reports: *An angry Hurst hit out: "It was the worst match since I took over. Our team got what they deserved."*

+ at *The industry hit out yesterday at the increase in business taxes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lash out**

hit up

hit *sb* **up**

AmE informal to ask someone to give you something, especially money

+ for *Why don't you hit Marty up for a loan and go shopping?*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask**

hit upon

SEE **hit on/upon**

HITCH

hitched, hitched, hitching

hitch up

hitch up *sth* | **hitch** *sth* **up**

to pull up a piece of clothing, so that it is higher up your body than before: *She quickly finished hitching up her tights.* | *He hitched up his jeans and waded out into the stream.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hike up**

HIVE

hived, hived, hiving

hive off

1 **hive off** *sth* | **hive** *sth* **off**

BrE to separate one part of a business from the rest, usually by selling it: *The move to hive off most of their retail shops has saved £6 million.* | *Many of our services will be hived off to agencies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sell off**

2 **hive** *sth* **off** | **hive off** *sth*

BrE to separate one or more parts of a group from all the rest: *The Indians had been hived off into reservations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate off**

HOARD

hoarded, hoarded, hoarding

hoard away

hoard away *sth* | **hoard** *sth* **away**

to secretly keep large quantities of something hidden somewhere, especially money or food: *The old man had been hoarding his money away for years under the mattress.*

hoard up

hoard up *sth* | **hoard** *sth* **up**

to collect and save large amounts of food, money etc, so that you will have it later if you need it: *People are hoarding up supplies of food in case there's another bad winter.*

HOLD

held, held, holding

hold against

hold *sth* **against** *sb*

to feel angry, upset etc with someone because of something they did in the past, or to have a bad opinion of them because of something about them

hold it against sb *"I know I've been a bit silly," said Claudia "but please don't hold it against me."*

hold sth against sb *Lack of experience won't be held against you – we offer a full training programme.*

hold back

1 **hold back** *sth/sb* | **hold** *sth/sb* **back**

to prevent something or someone from moving forward or coming near to something: *A great wall of rocks and earth was built to hold back the rising water. | Police did their best to hold back hundreds of screaming fans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **restrain, keep back**

2 **hold** *sb/sth* **back** | **hold back** *sb/sth*

to prevent someone or something from developing or making progress: *Many students are held back at school by poor reading skills. | High interest rates have held back Ecuador's economic growth. | the male-dominated society which has held women back for so long*

3 **hold back** *sth* | **hold** *sth* **back** | **hold back**

to stop yourself from showing how you feel, especially with difficulty

hold back tears *Struggling to hold back her tears, Justine watched him get onto the plane.*

hold back laughter *In the end she couldn't hold back the laughter any longer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

4 **hold back** | **hold** *sb* **back**

if you hold back or something holds you back, you do not immediately do or say something that you have thought of doing or saying, especially because you are not sure if it is the right thing to do, or because you feel nervous: *The President's instinct was to send in the military, but he decided to hold back.*

hold back from doing sth *Although Sam was a good man, Martha had held back from agreeing to marry him – he was dull.*

something holds sb back *Just for a moment she was tempted to tell him, but something held her back.*

5 **hold** *sth* **back** | **hold back** *sth*

to keep something secret: *You're sure you're telling me everything – you're not holding anything back?*

+ from *Campaigners claim that information has been held back from them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

6 **hold back** *sth* | **hold** *sth* **back**

if you hold money back, you do not give it to someone for a period of time, although they were expecting to have it: *Congress had threatened to hold back $5 million in aid until a peace agreement is signed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

hold down

1 **hold** *sb/sth* **down** | **hold down** *sb/sth*

to make someone or something stay in the same place and stop them from moving: *It took four policemen to hold him down. | The roof consisted of sheets of corrugated iron, held down with stones.*

2 **hold down** *sth* | **hold** *sth* **down**

to prevent the level of something from increasing – especially prices, wages etc: *Colleges must hold down tuition fees to attract more students. | an agreement that holds wage increases down*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep down**

3 **hold down a job**

to succeed in keeping or doing a job for a fairly long period of time: *He's never held down a job for longer than a few weeks. | Linda was completely exhausted from trying to hold down a full-time job as well as looking after the home.*

4 **hold down** *sb* | **hold** *sb* **down**

to keep people under strict control or limit their freedom in a way that is not fair or reasonable: *a race of people held down for centuries by invaders and conquerors*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep down, oppress** *formal*

5 **hold** *sth* **down** | **hold down** *sth*

to stop food coming up from your stomach and out of your mouth when you are feeling sick: *I gave him some water, but he couldn't even hold that down. | Patients might find it difficult to hold down solid food for a few days after the treatment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep down**

● OPPOSITE: **bring up**

6 **hold down the noise/hold it down**

AmE spoken informal used to tell someone to be quieter or stop talking: *Hey, could you hold it down in there please? I can't even hear myself talk!*

hold forth

hold forth

to talk or give your opinion about something for a long time, especially in a way that is boring for other people: *Edward, now on his fifth pint, was holding forth in the corner of the bar.*

+ on/about *Politicians are always holding forth on standards in education, but they know nothing about teaching!*

hold off

1 **hold off** **hold off** *sth*

to delay doing something: *If you need a computer but have been holding off because of the expense, now is a good time to buy.*

hold off (on) doing sth *We've decided to hold off making an announcement until next week.* | *The Federal Reserve may hold off on raising interest rates.*

* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put off, delay**

2 **hold off** *sb* **hold** *sb* **off**

to prevent someone from being successful when they are trying to attack you, defeat you, or cause you problems: *They managed to hold off their attackers until the police arrived.* | *United held off a strong attack in the second half to record a 3–2 victory in the opening game.* | *The company is in deep trouble – they need to raise $15 million to hold off their creditors.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fend off**

H

3 **hold off**

if rain or snow holds off, it does not start falling, although it looks like it will soon: *It looks like snow's on the way – I hope it holds off until we get home.*

hold on

1 **hold on**

to hold something tightly, especially to stop yourself from falling or losing what you are holding: *No matter how hard Josie pulled, the dog wouldn't let go of the stick – it just held on and snarled.*

hold on tight *Nancy got onto the back of the bike and held on tight, terrified she would fall off.*

hold on for dear life (=hold something very tightly because you are afraid) *Jake clung to the branch, holding on for dear life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on, cling on**

2 **hold on**

spoken informal to wait for a short time – used especially when telling someone to wait

hold on a minute/moment etc *Can you hold on a moment – she's just coming.*

hold on! (=used to tell someone to wait for a short time) *The key must be here somewhere. Hold on, I'll find it.*

sb can't hold on much longer *I'm afraid I can't hold on much longer – I've got a taxi waiting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on, wait**

3 **hold on**

spoken informal used on the telephone to tell someone to wait while you find the person they want to talk to: *"Can I speak to Chris?" "Yeah, hold on."*

do you want to hold on? *Cathy's extension is busy; do you want to hold on?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on!** *spoken informal*

4 **hold on!**

spoken informal used when you want someone to stop what they are saying and listen to you, especially when you are surprised or confused about something: *Hold on, what are you talking about?*

hold on a minute/second *Now hold on a minute – that's my money, not yours.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on!** *spoken informal*, **hang about** *BrE spoken informal*

5 **hold on**

to succeed in preventing a team, player, or army from defeating you, even though they are very strong or powerful: *Despite a difficult first period, New York Islanders held on for a 4–3 win over the Toronto Tigers.* | *The defenders were able to hold on for several weeks.*

6 **hold on**

to succeed in continuing to exist or do something, even though the situation is very difficult: *The company managed to hold on, in spite of the recession.*

7 **hold on**

if someone who is very ill holds on, they succeed in staying alive with great difficulty: *Ed looked dreadful lying in that hospital bed – you could see he was just barely holding on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on**

hold onto/hold on to

1 **hold onto/on to** *sth*

to hold something tightly, especially to stop yourself from falling or losing what you are holding: *She held on to the counter to steady herself.* | *The youths tried to grab the cash from him, but he held onto it and they ran off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang onto, grip**

2 **hold onto/on to** *sth*

to keep something, and not give it to someone else, throw it away etc: *It's a beautiful picture, you should hold onto it. | Hold onto the receipt in case you need to take the dress back to the shop.*

hold onto sth for sb (=keep something that belongs to someone else and look after it for them) *I've got nowhere to put this table. Could you hold on to it for me for a while?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang onto, keep**

3 **hold onto/on to** *sth*

to succeed in keeping something, when there is a danger that you will lose it: *workers struggling to hold onto full-time jobs | Although rebel forces have managed to capture the city, they won't be able to hold on to it for long. | Holyfield held onto his World Heavyweight title, after a controversial fight with Britain's Lennox Lewis.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang onto, keep**

4 **hold onto/on to** *sth*

to continue to have a hope or belief, even though it is difficult or you feel less sure about it: *We're taught to hold onto the American dream – the belief that everyone can be successful if they work hard. | I hold on to the philosophy that people are basically good, in spite of all that's happened.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cling to/cling on to**

5 **hold onto/on to** *sb*

to put your arms around someone and hold them tightly when you want to comfort them, when they are upset etc: *"I'm so worried," she whispered, holding onto him.*

hold out

1 **hold out** *sth* **hold** *sth* **out**

to stretch forward your arm in order to give or show what you are holding to someone: *"Have you seen this?" Casey said, holding out a piece of paper. | The woman took the cup, drank the water, and held it out for more.*

hold out your hand/hold your hand out (=stretch forward your arm, especially to shake hands with someone or to take something from them) *She moved forward, holding out her hand. "Welcome to New York!"*

2 **hold out**

if a supply of something holds out, there is enough for you to use, but only for a limited period of time: *I'll stay as long as the money holds out. | It hasn't rained for weeks – do you reckon the water will hold out?*

* SIMILAR TO: **last**

3 **hold out**

to try to prevent change or prevent yourself from being forced to do something: *The Council wants to buy the land, but the owners are holding out and refusing to sell.*

hold out against sth/sb *Republicans are determined to hold out against proposals to increase welfare spending.*

holdout N [C]
AmE a person, country etc that refuses to accept change or does not agree with something, even when most others do: *France is one of the few holdouts against worldwide information technology.*

4 **hold out**

to continue to defend yourself against an enemy attack without being defeated: *The rebels held out for as long as they could.*

hold out against sth/sb *Serbian forces held out against a massive bombardment by NATO warplanes.*

5 **hold out the possibility/prospect/promise of** *sth*

to suggest that something good might happen in the future or to make it seem likely to happen: *The Central Bank held out the possibility late Monday of another cut in interest rates. | Bateson's research holds out the promise of a much wider project.*

* SIMILAR TO: **offer**

6 **not hold out much hope**

to not think that something good is likely to happen or to have a good result: *I'm going to try and give up smoking again, but I don't hold out much hope. | "How's Ellen?" "The doctors say they don't hold out much hope, I'm afraid."*

hold out for

hold out for *sth*

to refuse to accept anything less than what you have asked for: *Personally, I'm holding out for $30 an hour. | It's clear that the company was trying to hold out for a higher price.*

* SIMILAR TO: **insist on/upon**

hold out on

hold out on *sb*

informal to refuse to give someone information that they need, or something that you have promised to give them: *I'm sure they know what happened, but they're holding out on me.*

hold over

1 **hold** *sth* **over** *sb*

to use information about someone or your power over them to make them do what you

H

want, especially by threatening them in some way: *My brother held that secret over me for thirty years.* | *The captain is holding this threat over Johnson: if he doesn't turn up to training, he loses his place in the team.*

2 **hold** *sth* **over** | **hold over** *sth*

to arrange to do something or for something to happen at a later time

+ for *If you're too busy, we can hold this over for another day.* | *The race has been held over until next week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put off**

3 **be held over**

AmE if a film, concert etc is held over, it is shown for longer than planned because it is very popular: *Come see 'Pulp Fiction', held over for another week.*

holdover N [C]
AmE something or someone that existed or was used in the past and still exists or is used in the present: *The idea of a permanent job is a holdover from yesterday's world.* | *The only holdover in the new production is Kathleen Hegierski as Olga.*

hold to

1 **hold** *sb* **to** *sth*

to make someone do what they have promised or agreed to do: *"Next time, I'll buy you a drink." "I'll hold you to that!"* | *The US says it will hold the EU to their side of the agreement.*

2 **hold** *sb* **to a draw/2–2/1–1 etc**

to prevent the opposing team or player from getting more points or goals than you, so that the final score is 2–2, 1–1 etc: *Manchester United were held to a 2–2 draw by Norwich.*

3 **hold to** *sth*

to refuse to change your beliefs, ideas, principles etc or a decision you have made: *We must hold to principles of fairness and treat everyone equally.* | *The Minister is expected to hold to his original decision.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to**

hold together

1 **hold** *sb/sth* **together** | **hold together** *sb/sth*

to make people, countries etc stay together and not separate, especially when there are difficulties that threaten to separate them: *Marshal Tito managed to hold the country together for almost 40 years.* | *The only thing that held them together was the kids.*

* SIMILAR TO: **unite**

2 **hold together**

if people, countries etc hold together, they stay together and do not separate, especially when there are difficulties that threaten to separate them: *The novel tells the story of a family struggling to hold together after the death of a child.* | *The big question is can the Alliance hold together till the end of the war?*

3 **hold** *sth* **together** | **hold together** *sth*

to prevent something from breaking into separate parts: *The shed was held together by a few old rusty nails.* | *She tied string round the package to hold it together.*

4 **hold together**

to stay in one piece instead of breaking into separate parts: *Press the mixture with your fingers; if it doesn't hold together, add some water.* | *Don't cut the bottom off the onion – that way it will hold together when you cook it.*

5 **hold together**

if a story, plan, explanation etc holds together, it is good and you find it easy to understand or believe: *I don't think his argument holds together.* | *The plot doesn't hold together; the characters just wouldn't behave like that in real life.*

6 **hold together**

if a machine or piece of equipment holds together, it continues to work, although it is not in good condition: *The washing machine will just have to hold together for a bit longer – we can't afford a new one.*

hold up

1 **hold up** *sth* | **hold** *sth* **up**

to raise your hand or arm, or something that you have in your hand: *One child at the back of the class held up her hand.* | *The crowd held up posters demanding his release from prison.*

2 **hold** *sth/sb* **up** | **hold up** *sth/sb*

to delay something or someone, so that something takes longer or happens later than planned: *Protesters held up work on the new road for weeks.* | *The concert should have started at 8, but a series of problems held things up.* | *I hope I haven't held you up – it took longer than I thought to get here.*

get held up *Sorry we're late – we got held up in the traffic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delay, set back**

hold-up N [C]
a delay that is unexpected but not very serious: *There's been a hold-up with the builders, so the new office won't be ready until next month.* | *A crash this morning is causing big hold-ups on the M25.*

H

3 **hold up** *sth* **hold** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to support something and stop it from falling down: *This mirror's only being held up by one tiny hook. | Several of the plants are held up by suckers but others need wire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **support**

4 **hold up** *sth/sb*

to stop a vehicle or go into a bank, shop etc with a gun or other weapon and demand money from people: *A gang held up a bus near Chimbote and robbed some 50 passengers. | Stealing money by computer is far easier than holding up a bank.*

hold sb up at gunpoint/knifepoint *Fraser was charged with another robbery, this time for holding up a cab driver at gunpoint.*

hold-up N [C]
when someone stops a vehicle or goes into a bank, shop etc with a gun and demands money: *A man was shot dead in a hold-up at a downtown bank yesterday.*

5 **hold up**

to continue to be healthy, successful, or at a high level, especially in a difficult situation: *Is she holding up under all the pressure? | Sales held up well in the fourth quarter.*

6 **hold up**

if a machine, piece of equipment, or system holds up, it continues to work and does not break, even in difficult conditions: *It will be interesting to see how well the new computer system holds up. | The Range Rover's suspension is designed to hold up even under the most difficult driving conditions.*

7 **hold up**

if an idea, explanation, or evidence holds up, it still seems good and right after it has been checked or tested: *Holmes did not believe the man's evidence would hold up in court. | If these findings hold up, scientists will have to develop a completely new theory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up**

hold up as

hold *sb/sth* **up as** *sth*

hold up *sb/sth* **as** *sth*

to use someone or something as an example, especially an example that other people should copy: *He's only a footballer – he shouldn't be held up as a role model for our kids. | The book is a good guide to investment, but I'm not holding it up as an example for all to follow.*

hold with

sb does not hold with *sth*

if someone does not hold with something, they do not approve of it: *Henry didn't hold with mobile phones – he thought they were the curse of modern life.*

hold with doing sth *She didn't hold with going to bed with other people's husbands.*

* SIMILAR TO: **agree (with)**

HOLE
holed, holed, holing

hole out

hole out

to hit the ball into the hole when you are playing golf: *Mason holed out for a four. | Sherborne made a dream start when he holed out from 45 yards with a sand wedge.*

hole up

hole up/be holed up

informal to go and stay somewhere quiet and away from people who you are hiding from or want to avoid: *The gunmen had holed up with their hostages in a nearby village. | She was holed up at the Sherry Netherland hotel on Fifth Avenue. | The kids hole up in their rooms with their computer games and you never get to talk to them.*

HOLLOW
hollowed, hollowed, hollowing

hollow out

hollow *sth* **out** **hollow out** *sth*

to make a hole or empty space in something by removing the inside part: *Cut the top off of a large pineapple and carefully hollow out the fruit. | Hollow the mushrooms out with a spoon to make space for the stuffing.*

hollowed-out ADJ
having a hole or space in the middle, made by removing the inside part: *a hollowed-out log*

H

HOME
homed, homed, homing

home in on

1 **home in on** *sth*

to move directly towards something in order to attack and destroy it – use this especially about missiles: *Cruise missiles can home in on their targets with incredible accuracy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **target**

2 **home in on** *sth*

to direct your attention or efforts towards a particular subject or problem: *He immediately homed in on the weak point in her argument. |*

The commission's final report will home in on the possible causes of the crash.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **focus on/upon**

HOOK

hooked, hooked, hooking

hook into

1 **hook into** *sth*

to become connected to a system such as the Internet or a telephone system: *Schools will be able to hook into the Information Superhighway.* | *New telecom companies will be allowed to hook into the national phone system.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hook up to**

2 **hook** *sb* **into** *sth*

informal, especially AmE to persuade someone to do what you want in a skilful way, even though they may not want to do it: *The TV companies persuade you to watch a steady stream of programs, one hooking you into the next.*

hook sb into doing sth *The whole idea is to hook people into giving money to the aid program.*

hook up

1 **hook up** *sth/sb* **hook** *sth/sb* **up**

especially AmE to connect something or someone to a piece of equipment, an electronic system, or an electricity supply: *The air conditioning is still not hooked up yet, and it's incredibly hot in here!*

+ to *A nurse hooks Melanie up to an oxygen tank so she can breathe more easily.* | *a device for hooking up users to the Internet*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **connect**

hook-up N [C]
especially AmE a temporary connection between two pieces of equipment such as computers, or between a piece of equipment and an electricity supply: *Walford was speaking to a reporter via a satellite hookup.*

2 **hook up**

AmE informal to start a romantic or sexual relationship with someone, often one that is short and not serious: *So, did you and Dan finally hook up?*

+ with *Guess what – Jessie hooked up with Paul last night!*

3 **hook up**

informal to meet someone in order to do something together socially, for example have a drink, go to a party etc: *We hooked up for lunch at Toscana in Brentwood.*

+ with *Matt and I went out for a drink and hooked up with Janet later on.*

4 **hook up**

informal, especially AmE to agree to work with another person or organization for a particular purpose

+ with *David Bowie hooked up with the band for a tour of the US.*

HOP

hopped, hopped, hopping

hop off

hop off!

old-fashioned spoken informal used to tell someone to go away, especially because they are annoying you: *Hop off, you two! It's time you were in bed.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **buzz off!** *spoken informal, especially BrE*

HORN

horned, horned, horning

horn in

horn in

AmE spoken to interrupt or try to take part in an activity when you are not wanted: *Pardon my rudeness for horning in where I have no business.*

+ on *the guy who horned in on my date*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **butt in, muscle in**

HORSE

horsed, horsed, horsing

horse around
ALSO **horse about** *BrE*

horse around/about USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

spoken to play in a silly, rather violent and noisy way: *Stop horsing around – you're going to break something.* | *I was sort of in the mood for horsing around. I felt like jumping off the washbowl and wrestling with Dean.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fool around/about**

HOSE

hosed, hosed, hosing

hose down

hose down *sth/sb* **hose** *sth/sb* **down**

to wash something or someone using a hose (=a long plastic tube that can bend): *Take Louis's car out on the forecourt and hose it down.* | *The prisoners were brutally beaten, stripped naked and hosed down with freezing cold water.*

H

HOT

hotted, hotted, hotting

hot up

1 **hot up** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE informal to become more exciting or dangerous, with a lot more activity: *The election campaign is already hotting up.* | *In 1969 things were hotting up along the Sino-Soviet border.*

2 **hot up**

to become hotter: *As the climate hots up, the polar ice caps will start to melt.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **warm up**

● OPPOSITE: **cool down**

HOUND

hounded, hounded, hounding

hound out

hound out *sb* **hound** *sb* **out**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to force someone to leave a place or job by making the situation very unpleasant for them: *She didn't resign; she was hounded out by her colleagues.*

+ of *a man who was cruelly persecuted and hounded out of one country after another*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drive out**

HOWL

howled, howled, howling

howl down

howl down *sb* **howl** *sb* **down**

BrE to prevent a speaker from being heard by shouting loudly and angrily: *At a public meeting union officials were howled down by the strikers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shout down**

HUDDLE

huddled, huddled, huddling

huddle up

be huddled up

to sit or lie with your arms and legs folded close to your body because you are cold or frightened: *She sat huddled up in a corner, pale and shivering.*

huddle up/together

huddle up/together

if a group of people huddle up or huddle together, they stand or sit very close together, especially because they are cold or frightened: *They sheltered in a doorway and huddled up close for warmth.*

be huddled up/together *More than thirty people spent Christmas huddled together in a church hall after fire broke out in their apartment block.*

HUM

hummed, hummed, humming

hum with

hum with *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a place is humming with activity, it is very busy and there is a lot of activity there: *The town was humming with preparations for the annual carnival.* | *By 8 o'clock the streets are usually humming with life.*

HUNGER

hungered, hungered, hungering

hunger after/for

hunger after/for *sth*

literary to want something very much: *a nation hungering for change* | *Joseph would lie awake at night hungering after the warmth of her embrace.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **long for, yearn for**

HUNKER

hunkered, hunkered, hunkering

hunker down

1 **hunker down**

AmE to bend your knees so that you are sitting on your heels very close to the ground: *"I just hunkered down by the cash register as soon as he pulled out a gun," said one witness.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squat, crouch down**

2 **hunker down**

AmE to make yourself comfortable in a safe place, especially for a long time: *If you feel like just hunkering down in your room you can order dinner from our 24-hour room service.*

be hunkered down *You were hunkered down so cozy I didn't like to disturb you.*

3 **hunker down**

AmE informal to prepare yourself for a difficult situation: *Negotiators hunkered down for a weekend of non-stop talks in the hope of averting a Monday morning strike.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **prepare**

HUNT
hunted, hunted, hunting

hunt down

hunt down *sb* | **hunt** *sb* **down**

to search for a person or animal by chasing them until you catch them, especially in order to punish or kill them: *When slaves escaped from their master, they were hunted down like wild beasts.* | *The sole purpose of his voyage was to hunt down the Great White Whale.*

hunt out

1 **hunt out** *sb/sth* | **hunt** *sb/sth* **out**

to search for and find someone or something in order to kill or destroy them: *Immediately Karo's warriors hunted out every member of the tribe and butchered them.* | *A squadron of aircraft was assigned to sweep the channel and hunt out enemy submarines.*

2 **hunt out** *sth* | **hunt** *sth* **out**

to search for and find something that you need or want, especially something you have not seen or used for a long time: *I must try and hunt out my old riding boots.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look out** *BrE spoken*, **dig out**

hunt up

hunt up *sth/sb*

to search for a piece of information or a person until you find them, especially when they are difficult to find: *I spent the next ten days hunting up the missing documents.* | *Let's go and hunt up Miss Burn and ask her what she thinks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chase up** *BrE*

H

HURRY
hurried, hurried, hurrying

hurry along

1 **hurry** *sb/sth* **along**

to make something happen more quickly, or to make someone do something more quickly: *Everyone was getting impatient, so I thought I'd try and hurry things along.* | *Can you hurry the kids along a bit – they're going to be late for school.* | *The four-day official visit had to be hurried along as the rain pelted down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **speed up**

2 **hurry along**

to go somewhere quickly: *I'd like to stay, but I must be hurrying along.* | *People hurried along, their heads bent against the wind.*

3 **hurry along!**

spoken, old-fashioned used to tell someone, especially a child, to go somewhere quickly: *Hurry along now, or you'll get left behind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hurry up!**

hurry on

1 **hurry on**

to continue walking or going somewhere more quickly than before: *Patrick called after her, but she hurried on, quickening her pace almost to a run.*

hurry on ahead (=go somewhere quickly without waiting for other people) *Ellis hurried on ahead to get the tickets.*

2 **hurry on**

to quickly continue talking, often about a different subject: *Lisa hurried on before he could interrupt her.*

+ to *The chairman dealt briefly with the first item and then hurried on to Item Two, which was 'Financial Planning'.*

hurry up

1 **hurry up**

spoken do something more quickly: *You'd better hurry up and get dressed if you want to come with me.* | *I wish they'd hurry up and fix the plumbing.*

hurry up! *spoken* (=used to tell someone to come somewhere quickly) *Hurry up, or you'll get no dinner.*

2 **hurry** *sth/sb* **up** | **hurry up** *sth/sb*

to make something happen more quickly, or make someone do something more quickly: *I'm sorry the work's taking so long – I'll try to hurry things up a bit.* | *I'm still waiting for Fielding's lawyers to answer my letter. Can't we do something to hurry them up?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hurry along, speed up**

HUSH
hushed, hushed, hushing

hush up

hush *sth* **up** | **hush up** *sth*

to prevent other people from knowing about something immoral or shocking: *It was a major scandal and the White House had tried unsuccessfully to hush things up.* | *Gran wanted it all hushed up, but everyone knew it was suicide.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cover up, keep sth quiet**

HYPE

hyped, hyped, hyping

hype up

1 **hype up** *sth/sb* | **hype** *sth/sb* **up**

informal to make something or someone seem more important or better than they really are, by talking or writing about them a lot, especially in newspapers, on the television etc: *The media had really hyped up this UCLA team and so when they lost, it was a big disappointment.* | *a show that was hyped up as the big sensation of the television season*

* SIMILAR TO: **hype**

hyped-up ADJ
informal a hyped-up event, film, team etc has been made to seem more important or better than it really is, especially by being advertised a lot: *another hyped-up dinosaur movie*

2 **be hyped up**

informal to be very excited or anxious about something: *Now she's all hyped up and dying to see him.*

get hyped up *Before a big game the players get hyped up, restless and agitated.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be psyched up** *informal*

H

I

ICE
iced, iced, icing

ice down

ice *sth* **down** | **ice down** *sth*

AmE to cover an injury with ice in order to stop it from swelling: *Make sure you ice that ankle down as soon as you get inside.*

ice over

ice over

if the surface of something ices over, it becomes covered with ice: *The lake had iced over by the next morning.*

be iced over (=be covered with ice) *In some places the road was iced over and cars had skidded.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freeze over**

ice up

ice up

if something such as a window or a machine ices up, it becomes covered or blocked with ice so that it cannot be used or cannot work properly: *My windshield was icing up and I could hardly see the car in front.* | *The aircraft plunged to earth after its engines iced up at 35,000 feet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freeze up**

IDENTIFY
identified, identified, identifying

identify with

1 **identify with** *sb/sth*

to feel able to understand someone's character and feelings, especially because they seem similar to yours in some way: *Young readers can easily identify with Helen, the main character in the story – she's a very ordinary teenager.* | *Most of us will find it difficult to identify with the sufferings of a heroin addict.*

2 **be identified with** *sth*

to be considered by many people to have a close connection with someone or something: *Fats Waller's name came to be identified with a unique style of jazz.* | *Religion has often been closely identified with politics.*

3 **identify (yourself) with** *sb/sth*

to consider yourself to be part of a group that has a particular set of beliefs: *Not all trade unionists were ready to identify with the Socialist Movement.* | *politicians who wanted to identify themselves with reform*

IDLE
idled, idled, idling

idle away

idle away *sth* | **idle** *sth* **away**

to spend time in a relaxed way, doing nothing: *Natasha would sit idling away the long summer days by the river.* | *youths idling their time away on street corners*

* SIMILAR TO: **while away**

IMBUE
imbued, imbued, imbuing

imbue with

imbue *sth/sb* **with** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to fill something or someone with a particular quality or feeling: *All Yeats' poetry is imbued with a sense of mystery.* | *They are a people deeply imbued with national pride.*

IMMERSE
immersed, immersed, immersing

immerse in

1 **be immersed in** *sth*

to be completely involved in an activity or in thinking about something, so that you do not pay attention to what is happening around you: *We were so immersed in our business that we almost forgot about our families.* | *On the drive back home Victor sat immersed in his thoughts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be wrapped up in**

2 **immerse yourself in** *sth*

to take part in something so that you become completely involved in it: *Jane was happy to immerse herself in the African way of life.* | *After his wife's death Brosnan immersed himself in work on television movies.*

IMPACT
impacted, impacted, impacting

impact on

impact on *sth/sb*

to have an important and noticeable effect on something or someone: *How have long working hours impacted on the health and morale of junior doctors?* | *This is one of the ways in which advancing technology has impacted on aircraft design.*

* SIMILAR TO: **affect, impact** *AmE*, **have an effect on sb/sth**

IMPINGE

impinged, impinged, impinging

impinge on/upon

● **Impinge upon** is more formal than **impinge on** and is mostly used in writing.

impinge on/upon *sth/sb*

formal to have an effect on someone or something, especially in a way that limits someone's freedom or forces them to change their behaviour: *There is concern about new police powers that may impinge on the rights of protesters.* | *The change of government scarcely impinged on ordinary people's lives.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **affect**

IMPOSE

imposed, imposed, imposing

impose on/upon

● **Impose upon** is more formal than **impose on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **impose a tax/fine/sentence/ban etc on** *sth/sb*

to officially order that something must be taxed, that someone should be punished etc: *There were rumours that the government was considering imposing a tax on books.* | *The Soviet Parliament imposed a ban on all strikes that would affect the economy.* | *A £32,000 fine was imposed on Nigel Mansell, following his failure to stop at the Portuguese Grand Prix.*

2 **impose** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to make someone have the same ideas or beliefs as you, by influencing them strongly: *Spanish missionaries imposed the Catholic faith on a people who had their own religious tradition.* | *parents who impose their own moral values on their children*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **force on/upon**

3 **impose on** *sb*

to unreasonably expect or ask someone to do something for you when this is inconvenient for them: *We could ask them to let us stay the night, but I don't want to impose on them.*

IMPRESS

impressed, impressed, impressing

impress on/upon

● **Impress upon** is more formal than **impress on** and is mostly used in writing.

impress *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to make someone understand clearly that something is very important, especially that it is important to do something: *Eisenhower was careful to impress upon his officers the need for absolute secrecy.*

+ that *It had always been impressed on Alice that she must tell the truth.*

IMPROVE

improved, improved, improving

improve on/upon

● **Improve upon** is more formal than **improve on** and is mostly used in writing.

improve on/upon *sth*

to do something better than before or to make it better than before: *Bertorelli has scored 165 points, and I don't think anyone will improve on that.* | *New advances in radiotherapy will enable us to improve on existing treatments for cancer.*

IMPUTE

imputed, imputed, imputing

impute to

1 **impute** *sth* **to** *sb/sth*

formal to say or believe, often wrongly, that someone or something has a particular quality, feeling, or meaning: *Some literary scholars have imputed a different meaning to Blake's famous poem.*

2 **impute** *sth* **to** *sb/sth*

formal to say, often unfairly, that someone is responsible for something bad that has happened or to say that something has caused it: *The police were not guilty of the violence imputed to them.* | *In their official report on the accident they presented evidence without imputing blame to anyone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

INDULGE

indulged, indulged, indulging

indulge in

indulge in *sth*

to let yourself do or have something that you enjoy, often something you feel you should not do: *300,000 people nationwide indulge in a heavy drinking session every week, according to figures released yesterday.* | *I heard about a new diet that claims you can indulge in chocolate and all your other favourite foods and still lose weight easily.* | *They stopped off in Fort William to indulge in some leisurely shopping.*

INFLICT
inflicted, inflicted, inflicting

inflict on/upon

● **Inflict upon** is more formal than **inflict on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **inflict** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to talk about your beliefs or opinions to other people in a way that seems boring or annoying, especially because you expect them to accept that what you say is right: *He shouldn't try to inflict his beliefs on everyone else.*

* SIMILAR TO: **force on/upon**

2 **inflict** *sb* **on/upon** *sb*

to make you have to spend time with someone who seems very boring – often used humorously: *I wish she wouldn't insist on inflicting all her family on us at Christmas!*

3 **inflict yourself on** *sb*

to visit or spend time with someone when they do not want you to be with them: *"Sorry to inflict myself on you again." "Don't be silly, Stephen. Come in and have a drink."*

INFORM
informed, informed, informing

inform on
ALSO **inform against** *BrE*

inform on/against *sb*

to tell people in authority about something dishonest or illegal that someone you know has done – use this especially about a criminal or prisoner telling the police about the activities of other criminals or prisoners: *Carlson and Garay were arrested in September 1996 when a member of their gang informed on them.* | *Robbins must cooperate with police by informing on his former business partners.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grass on** *BrE informal*

I

INFRINGE
infringed, infringed, infringing

infringe on/upon

● **Infringe upon** is more formal than **infringe on** and is mostly used in writing.

infringe on/upon *sth*

to limit someone's freedom or take their rights away from them: *Some students believe the new law infringes upon their freedom of expression.* | *Stevens said his plan would keep guns out of criminals' hands, without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.*

* SIMILAR TO: **restrict, limit, encroach on** *formal*

INFUSE
infused, infused, infusing

infuse with

infuse *sth* **with** *sth*

formal to fill something with a particular feeling or quality, especially a good one: *Rousseau infuses his writings with a spirit of revolutionary romanticism.*

be infused with sth (=contain a lot of a particular feeling or quality) *Pollock's work is infused with raw energy and talent.*

INHERE
inhered, inhered, inhering

inhere in

inhere in *sth*

formal to be a natural part of something that cannot be separated from it: *Foucault maintained that the culture of a society inheres in its language.* | *Death inheres in the world, and is a trait of all living things.*

INJECT
injected, injected, injecting

inject into

inject *sth* **into** *sth*

to add a good quality such as excitement or enthusiasm to something in a way that improves it: *Better communication between management and staff has injected new enthusiasm into the workforce.* | *It is hoped that a big leisure centre will inject new life into the town.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add to**

INK
inked, inked, inking

ink in

ink in *sth* | **ink** *sth* **in**

to complete something done in pencil by drawing over it in ink: *I've just got to ink in the bottom part of the picture, and then it'll all be finished.*

INQUIRE
inquired, inquired, inquiring

inquire after
ALSO **enquire after** *BrE*

inquire after *sb/sth*

formal, especially BrE to ask how someone is or what they have been doing: *Mr. Collins leaned over and inquired after Joe, who he hadn't seen in months.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask after**

inquire into
ALSO **enquire into** BrE

1 **inquire into** *sth*

formal if a committee or a person inquires into something, they look for more information in order to decide if, why, or how it happened: *The FAA is inquiring into last week's plane crash off the coast of Long Island.* | *The Football League appointed a commission to inquire into alleged illegal payments by the club.*

* SIMILAR TO: **investigate**

2 **inquire into** *sth*

formal if you inquire into something, you ask if it is possible and get more information about it: *I am writing to inquire into the possibility of working in your Houston office this summer.*

inquire of
ALSO **enquire of** BrE

inquire of *sb*

BrE to ask someone a question about something: *"Have you any family?" she inquired of Mr Oaks.* | *"Are you sure it's all right to smile?" he inquired of Rose anxiously.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask**

INSINUATE
insinuated, insinuated, insinuating

insinuate

insinuate yourself into *sth*

especially literary to gradually gain someone's trust, by pretending to be friendly and sincere: *Dara delights in insinuating herself into other people's lives, then turning those lives upside down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **worm your way into sth**

INSIST
insisted, insisted, insisting

insist on/upon

● **Insist upon** is more formal than **insist on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **insist on/upon** *sth*

to demand something or demand to do something because you think it is important, and refuse to accept or do anything else

insist on doing sth *Guy insisted on paying for the meal, so I offered to cook him dinner some time.*

insist on sth *The big Hollywood stars often insist on having their own personal bodyguards with them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **demand**

2 **insist on/upon** *sth*

to behave in a particular way and refuse to behave in a different way, especially when other people think that your behaviour is surprising, annoying, or may cause something bad to happen

insist on doing sth *He insisted on bringing his dog everywhere with him.* | *If you insist on carrying cash, beware of pickpockets.* | *I wish she wouldn't insist on calling me Chrissy-poos.*

INSURE
insured, insured, insuring

insure against
ALSO **ensure against**

insure against *sth*

to do something to reduce the risk of something bad happening to you: *One way of insuring against big losses is to invest your money in several different companies.* | *Police powers should be increased, to insure against further violence in the streets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **guard against**

INTEREST
interested, interested

interest in

1 **interest** *sb* **in** *sth*

to try to persuade someone to do something, often to buy something: *The salesman was trying to interest him in one of the more expensive models.* | *The child's mother tried to interest him in playing with a toy car, but he just carried on crying.*

2 **Can/Could I interest you in** *sth?*

a used when trying to persuade someone to buy something: *Can I interest you in one of our new discount phone cards?*

b used when politely offering something to someone, or when asking them if they want to do something with you: *Can I interest you in some dinner? We could go to Gino's for a pizza.*

INTERFERE
interfered, interfered, interfering

interfere with

1 **interfere with** *sth*

to prevent someone from doing something, for example their work or their studies, or to prevent something from making progress: *Students should not work so many hours that the job interferes with school work.* | *He refused to let his illness interfere with his duties as President.* | *Even quite low levels of*

I

lead can interfere with a child's mental development. | *worries that the bombing campaign could interfere with the peace process*

2 | **interfere with** | *sb* |

BrE formal to have sex with children or touch them in a sexual way: *He was put in prison for interfering with his daughter.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **molest**

3 | **interfere with** | *sb* |

BrE to threaten to harm someone who is going to give evidence or decide if someone is guilty in a court of law, in order to influence them: *The trial ended suddenly, and many people thought the witnesses had been interfered with.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get at**

4 | **interfere with** | *sth* |

to deliberately damage something so that it does not work properly: *Accident investigators believe that the car's brakes may have been interfered with.* | *Police say the thieves managed to interfere with the bank's alarm system.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tamper with**

INTERSPERSE

interspersed, interspersed, interspersing

be interspersed with

| **be interspersed with** | *sth* |

to include something in various places or at various times: *The magazine's editorial features are interspersed with pages and pages of advertisements.* | *Tomorrow there will be sunny periods in the south, interspersed with occasional showers.*

INURE

inured, inured, inuring

be inured to ALSO enure to

| **be inured/enured to** | *sth* |

to have become so used to something unpleasant that you are no longer upset by it: *Have we become so inured to suffering that we don't think to help people in need?* | *Being a lawyer inured him to the injustices of the criminal code.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hardened to sth**

INVALID

be invalided out

| **be invalided out** |

to be officially allowed to leave a job, especially in the army, navy etc, because of injury or illness: *Her father joined the Irish Guards, but was wounded and invalided out in 1917.*

+ of *After four years in the Royal Artillery, Dignam was invalided out of the army and went straight to the Arts Theatre.*

INVEIGH

inveighed, inveighed, inveighing

inveigh against

| **inveigh against** | *sb/sth* |

formal to criticize someone or something strongly: *Lady Somers inveighed against the "disgusting language and intolerable manners" of some of the younger members.*

INVEST

invested, invested, investing

invest in

1 | **invest in** | *sth* |

to buy something that you think will become more valuable over time so you can sell it for a profit: *If you invest in stocks and shares, you need to realize that their value can go down as well as up.* | *Jones had made a small fortune by investing in Internet companies in the early 1990s.* | *Many companies are starting to invest in China, where there are potentially huge new markets.*

2 | **invest in** | *sth* |

to buy something because it is very useful and it will be worth the money you spend: *It's wise to invest in a good pair of running shoes before beginning long distance training.*

3 | **invest** | *sth* | **in** | *sth/sb* | | **invest in** | *sth/sb* |

to spend a lot of time, effort, money etc trying to make something or someone successful: *Robin's father had invested so much in her athletic career that she didn't want to disappoint him.* | *We need to help parents invest in their children.*

4 | **invest** | *sth* | **in** | *sb* | USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to give someone official power or authority to do something: *the constitutional power invested in Congress to declare war*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be vested in**

invest with

1 | **invest** | *sb* | **with** | *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to give someone official power or authority to do something: *The Court is invested with the authority to decide constitutional cases.*

2 | **invest** | *sb/sth* | **with** | *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to make someone or something seem to have a particular quality or character: *The painting is invested with an air of mystery.*

INVITE

invited, invited, inviting

invite along

invite *sb* **along** | **invite along** *sb*

to ask someone to come with you when you are going somewhere: *Simon and Dave invited me along to the football match since they had an extra ticket.*

+ with *My boyfriend's parents are renting a villa in Spain, and they've invited us along with them.*

invite around

SEE **invite round/around**

invite back

invite *sb* **back**

to ask someone to come to your home after you have been out somewhere together: *Annie invited Sheila back for coffee after the meeting.* | *Christine suggested that I invite Peter back to the apartment for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask back**

invite in

invite *sb* **in**

to ask someone to come into your home, room, office etc: *Ken invited her in to see his new house.* | *Granny would invite him in every afternoon for a short chat about the day's events.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask in**

invite out

invite *sb* **out**

to ask someone to go to a film, restaurant, concert etc with you

invite sb out to dinner/lunch/the cinema *I've been invited out to dinner, but I don't feel like going.*

+ for *Ben met Joan at a party, and invited her out for a drink.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask out**

invite over

invite *sb* **over**

to ask someone to come to where you live, for example to eat dinner, to have coffee, to talk etc: *John and Susan have invited me over for Sunday lunch.* | *You should invite her over some time.* | *I'd really like to meet her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask over, invite round/around**

invite round/around

invite *sb* **round/around**

BrE to ask someone to come to where you live, for example to eat dinner, to have coffee, to talk etc: *I often invite people round for Friday evening drinks.* | *On a warm sunny evening, it's always a pleasure to invite friends round and sit out in the garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite over, ask over, ask round/around**

IRON

ironed, ironed, ironing

iron out

iron out *sth* | **iron** *sth* **out**

if you iron out small problems, you deal with them: *The managers meet once a month to iron out any problems.* | *Carmen and Jack were having a few difficulties in their marriage but managed to iron them out before things got too bad.*

ISSUE

issued, issued, issuing

issue forth

1 **issue forth**

literary to come out of a place: *I looked in horror as blood issued forth from the man's chest.*

2 **issue from** *sth*

literary to come out of a place: *Black smoke issued from the factory chimneys.* | *Pop music was issuing from behind Sheila's door.*

ITCH

itched, itched, itching

itch for

itch for *sth*

informal to want something very much and be very impatient to do it: *She could tell he was itching for a fight.* | *Irvine says he is itching for a chance to get back into Grand Prix racing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for, yearn for**

J

JABBER

jabbered, jabbered, jabbering

jabber away

jabber away USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal if someone is jabbering away, they are talking quickly and continuously in a way that is difficult for you to understand or annoying: *I could hear Mike in the kitchen, jabbering away to the cook in Greek.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **gabble on/away** *BrE informal*, **rattle on** *informal*

JACK

jacked, jacked, jacking

jack around

jack *sb* **around**

AmE informal to deliberately make things difficult for someone and waste their time: *The realtors kept jacking us around so we found another agency to sell the house.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dick around** *AmE informal*, **mess around** *BrE informal*

jack in

jack *sth* **in** **jack in** *sth*

BrE informal to stop doing a job or other regular activity, especially because you are bored or do not enjoy it: *I'll stay for two more weeks, and if I still don't like the job I'm jacking it in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pack in** *informal*, **give up, quite** *informal*

jack off

jack off

AmE informal if a boy or man jacks off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

∗ SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, toss off** *BrE informal*, **jerk off**

jack up

1 **jack up** *sth* **jack** *sth* **up**

informal to increase prices, rates etc by a large amount, especially suddenly and in a way that seems unreasonable: *All the hotels in town jack up their prices for the festival week.* | *The standard manager's fee then was 10 percent, but Parker jacked it up to 50 percent.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **increase**

2 **jack** *sth* **up** **jack up** *sth*

to lift a vehicle or other heavy object off the ground using a special piece of equipment that you put under the vehicle to support it: *If you had a flat tyre, would you know how to jack the car up and take the wheel off?*

3 **jack up**

BrE informal to take an illegal drug by putting it into your body using a needle: *If kids are jacking up and sharing needles, there's the added risk of them catching HIV or hepatitis.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shoot up** *informal*

JAM

jammed, jammed, jamming

jam on

jam on the brakes

to suddenly put your foot hard on the brake in order to stop your car: *Panicking, she jammed on the brakes and the car turned in a half circle.*

jam up

1a **jam** *sth* **up** **jam up** *sth*

if a lot of people or vehicles jam up a place, they block it so that it is difficult to move: *You can't get down that street – there's loads of parked cars jamming it up.* | *So many people were rushing to get out at once, they jammed up the exits.* | *There's no point going through the centre of town – it'll be jammed up at this time of day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **clog up**

1b **jam up**

if a place jams up, there are so many people or vehicles there that it becomes blocked and no one can move: *Researchers are testing how quickly after an accident a stretch of highway will jam up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **clog up**

2a **jam up** *sth* **jam** *sth* **up**

if something jams up a machine, it prevents part of it from moving properly and the machine will not work: *The paper keeps getting trapped and jamming up the printer.* | *The video recorder is jammed up again.*

2b **jam up**

if a part of a machine jams up, it no longer works properly because something is preventing it from moving: *If the gun jammed up, the soldiers just had to take it apart and put it back together again.*

3 **be jammed up against** *sth*

to be too close to something or in an uncomfortable position against it, and be unable to move away: *His head was jammed up against*

J

the back of the sofa, with Doyle's hand clamped over his mouth. | *a tiny room with a single bed jammed up against the fireplace*

JAR

jarred, jarred, jarring

jar on

jar on *sb/sth*

to make someone feel annoyed or uncomfortable – used especially of an unpleasant sound: *She had a hard unpleasant laugh, which really jarred on me.*

jar on the nerves/ears *The same old music blared out, jarring on everyone's nerves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grate (on)**

JAZZ

jazzed, jazzed, jazzing

jazz up

jazz up *sth* **jazz** *sth* **up**

informal to improve something that is old or dull by adding new or interesting things to it: *plain rice jazzed up with mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes* | *If your website looks a bit boring, you could jazz it up by adding a few graphics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **liven up, vamp up, spice up**

jazzed-up ADJ
made more exciting and interesting: *jazzed-up cuisine*

JERK

jerked, jerked, jerking

jerk around

jerk *sb* **around**

jerk around with *sth/sb*

AmE informal to treat someone badly, especially by deliberately making things difficult for them: *I got tired of being jerked around by everyone in the department, so I quit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess sb around** *BrE informal*, **dick sb around** *AmE informal*

jerk off

jerk off

AmE informal if a boy or man jerks off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, toss off** *BrE informal*, **jack off** *AmE informal*

jerk out

jerk out *sth*

literary to say something suddenly, especially because you feel very angry, surprised, or nervous: *"Don't lie," she jerked out. "I know where you were last night."*

JET

jetted, jetted, jetting

jet off

jet off

to travel somewhere by plane for a holiday, for your work etc: *After the wedding the couple are jetting off for a couple of weeks in the Seychelles.* | *She has a very glamorous lifestyle – she's always jetting off to somewhere or other.*

JIB

jibbed, jibbed, jibbing

jib at

jib at *sth*

BrE informal old-fashioned to be unwilling to do something when you are asked or have the chance to do it: *I suppose if he jibbed at five hundred pounds he'd hardly pay four thousand.*

jib at doing sth *Even Mike jibbed at doing the parachute jump.*

JIBE

jibed, jibed, jibing

jibe with

jibe with *sth*

AmE if one statement, opinion, report etc jibes with another, the information in them is similar: *The survey's results jibe with what bankers and economists are saying.* | *The words and actions of our elected representatives don't jibe with those of the common citizen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **match**

JOCKEY

jockeyed, jockeyed, jockeying

jockey for

jockey for position/advantage/power

to compete with other people to try to get into the best position or situation so that you have an advantage: *Photographers jockeyed for position outside the courtroom.* | *As the President's health declined, potential rivals began jockeying for power.*

* SIMILAR TO: **compete**

jockey into

jockey *sth* **into** *sth*

AmE to move something large, especially a vehicle, into a particular place or position: *In*

January 1999, controllers at APL jockeyed the spacecraft into a 62-mile-high orbit.

* SIMILAR TO: **manoeuvre** *BrE*, **maneuver** *AmE*

JOG

jogged, jogged, jogging

jog along

jog along

BrE informal to continue steadily in the same way as usual, without anything exciting or unusual happening: *United have been jogging along in the middle of the league tables all season.* | *There's no point complaining – just jog on and do the best you can.*

JOIN

joined, joined, joining

join in

join in | **join in** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to start doing or becoming involved in something with other people, especially when they are already doing it: *When we get to the chorus, I want everybody to join in.* | *Politely, he joined in the laughter.* | *With the vast majority of employees joining in the strike, work soon came to a halt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **participate, take part**

join up

1 **join up**

to become a member of the army, navy, or airforce: *Young men and women were urged to join up and serve their country.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enlist**

2 **join up** *sth* | **join** *sth* **up**

BrE to connect or fasten things together: *The reason the lights aren't working is because the wires aren't joined up properly.* | *It's a puzzle – you have to join up the dots to make a picture.*

* SIMILAR TO: **connect**

3 **join up**

especially BrE if two things join up they come together and connect with each other: *There are two paths around the lake and they join up by the bridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **meet**

4 **join up**

to work with other people or go somewhere with them in order to do something: *We joined up to make a quiz team.*

+ with *The SS Brilliant will join up with the other ships and head west.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get together**

join with

join with *sb*

formal to do or say something with a group of other people or with another person: *She was invited to join with young musicians from 46 countries at the Interlochen Music Camp.*

join with sb in doing sth *Does the Senator plan to join with Republicans in supporting the bill?*

join with sb to do sth *He returned to Connecticut and joined with an aunt to purchase a 150-acre farm.*

JOLLY

jollied, jollied, jollying

jolly along

jolly *sb/sth* **along**

BrE to make someone feel more cheerful, by talking to them in a friendly and encouraging way, especially so that they enjoy themselves or do something that you want them to do: *She tried to jolly him along a bit and get him to join in with the others.*

jolly things along *Just go back and jolly things along and tell everyone what a great trip they're going to have.*

jolly up

1 **jolly up** *sth* | **jolly** *sth* **up**

BrE old-fashioned to make a place or event more attractive, exciting, and enjoyable: *A couple of bands were hired to jolly up the celebrations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up, liven up**

2 **jolly** *sb* **up** | **jolly up** *sb*

BrE old-fashioned to make someone feel more cheerful: *Nina visits the hospital every week to chat to the patients, just to jolly them up a bit.* | *"You and Jim look as if you need jollying up," Albert said. "Let's go out for a drink."*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up**

JOT

jotted, jotted, jotting

jot down

jot *sth* **down** | **jot down** *sth*

to quickly write something on a piece of paper, so that you can remember it or use it later: *If anyone has any suggestions, jot them down on a piece of paper and give them to me.* | *At the breakfast table, Kathy jotted down a grocery list.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scribble down**

JUGGLE

juggled, juggled, juggling

juggle with

juggle *sth* **with** *sth* | **juggle with** *sth*

if you juggle one job, responsibility etc with another or others, you try to organize them so that you have enough time to do all of them, especially with difficulty: *Grace was juggling a full-time job with looking after three young children.* | *The teenager was trying to juggle her tennis career with her college education.* | *Parents have to juggle with their job commitments in order to spend enough time with the kids.*

juggle with/juggle about with/juggle around with

juggle with *sth* | **juggle about with** *sth* | **juggle around with** *sth*

to arrange numbers, information etc in various ways, changing them if necessary in order to get the result you want: *My accountant juggles with the figures, and then tells me how much tax I have to pay.* | *She juggled about with the text for a few minutes, trying to get it to look right.*

JUICE

juiced, juiced, juicing

juice up

juice up *sth* | **juice** *sth* **up**

AmE *informal* to make something more interesting or exciting: *Moby became known for his skill at juicing up hit tunes for the dance floor.* | *In an effort to juice up their event, the organizers of the Los Angeles Marathon have changed the route completely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **liven up, jazz up, spice up**

JUMBLE

jumbled, jumbled, jumbling

jumble up

jumble *sth* **up** | **jumble up** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to mix things together so that they are not arranged neatly or in order any more: *All the papers on my desk were jumbled up and I couldn't find a thing.* | *Here are three words with the letters jumbled up – can you guess what the words are?* | *He only remembered certain bits of the accident – it was all jumbled up in his mind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mix up**

JUMP

jumped, jumped, jumping

jump at

jump at *sth*

to eagerly accept the opportunity to do something: *If I was offered the job, of course I'd jump at it.*

jump at the chance/opportunity *When the resort was put up for sale in 1985, the Millers jumped at the chance to buy it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap at**

jump in

1 **jump in**

to interrupt someone or suddenly start talking when other people are having a conversation: *He was going to say more, but she jumped in. "You can't be serious!"* | *Dalzell interrupted. "I am going to jump in here. I have to disagree with you."*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt, butt in**

2 **jump in**

to start doing something quickly in order to take an opportunity or get an advantage: *Buyers have to be ready to jump in – these discounts are only available for a short period.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap in, dive in**

jump on

jump on *sb/sth*

informal to criticize or punish someone as soon as they do anything slightly wrong, in a way that seems unfair: *Mum's being so mean to me – every time I say something she jumps on me.* | *When the show started everybody jumped on it and criticized the things that weren't working.*

jump out at

jump out at *sb*

if something jumps out at you, you notice it quickly because it is unusual or you like it very much: *As soon as I read it through again, several mistakes jumped out at me.* | *Did you see the photograph of the eagles in the gallery? That really jumped out at me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap out at**

jump up

jump up

to suddenly stand up after you have been sitting or lying down: *Sethe jumped up and went to the phone.* | *When she heard Clarisa scream, she jumped up and ran outside.*

JUT

jutted, jutted, jutting

jut out

jut out

to come out further than the rest of something, or beyond the edge of something

+ into/from/of *Cape Finisterre juts out into the Atlantic.* | *A sharp piece of metal jutting out from the heavily loaded vehicle caught him on the forehead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick out, protrude** *formal*

jut up

jut up

to come up above the surface of something, or to point up – used especially of something sharp or pointed: *The sidewalk was wrecked, with pieces of stone jutting up at odd angles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick up**

K

KEEL

keeled, keeled, keeling

keel over

keel over

to fall over sideways, especially because you feel weak or unsteady: *He looked as if he was ready to keel over from exhaustion.* | *May was laughing so much that she keeled over onto the sofa.*

KEEP

kept, kept, keeping

keep after

keep after *sb*

to ask someone again and again to do something until they do it: *Tony's children and relatives kept after him to stop drinking.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep on at**

keep at

1 **keep at** *sth*

spoken to continue to do something, although it is difficult or hard work: *How long do you think you'll keep at this job?*

keep at it *I know the training is hard, but keep at it. Don't give up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stick at it**

2 **keep** *sb* **at it**

to make someone continue to work hard and not let them stop: *Trevor will never pass his piano exam if he doesn't practise – you have to keep him at it.* | *The director called yet another rehearsal; he was determined to keep them at it as long as possible.*

keep away

1 **keep away**

to not go near a person, place, or animal: *You'd better keep away, I don't want you to get my cold.*

+ from *Keep away from that dog, it might bite you!* | *If I were you I'd keep away from that area at night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay away**

2 **keep** *sb/sth* **away** | **keep away** *sb/sth*

to prevent someone or something from going near a person or place: *Rub the liquid on your skin to keep mosquitoes away.*

+ from *Mom kept us away from school for a week.* | *To avoid danger of suffocation, keep plastic bags away from babies and children.*

3 **keep away** *sth* | **keep** *sth* **away**

to prevent an illness from infecting someone: *Vitamin C is supposed to keep away colds.*

keep back

1 **keep back**

to not stand near something or not move towards it: *Keep well back, please. This could be dangerous.*

+ from *Police were telling people to keep back from the side of the road.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand back**

2 **keep back** *sb/sth* | **keep** *sb/sth* **back**

to prevent someone or something from moving forward or going past a particular place: *The organizers have put up barriers to keep back crowds.* | *He had a white rag, which he tied around his head to keep his hair back.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

3 **keep** *sth* **back** | **keep back** *sth*

to keep part of something instead of using it all immediately, or giving it all to someone else, so that you have it to use later: *I managed to keep back a couple of cases of beer, just for our own use.* | *While the women spent everything on their families, men typically kept money back for themselves.*

4 **keep** *sth* **back**

to deliberately not tell someone all that you know about something: *I've honestly no idea what happened – do you think I'd keep anything back if I knew?*

+ from *Ellie was sure he was keeping something back from her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold back, withhold** *formal*

5 **keep back** *sth* | **keep** *sth* **back**

if you keep back your tears or your feelings, you do not cry or show your feelings, even though you want to very much: *I tried to explain, working hard to keep back the tears.* | *He was unable to keep back his anger any longer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold back, suppress** *formal*

6 **keep** *sb* **back**

to make someone stay after class, especially in order to talk to them: *After the first class the teacher kept me back and said, "Are you really sure you want to be a dancer?"*

7 **keep** *sb* **back**

to make someone stay at the same level, and not let them progress to a higher level, for example because you do not think that their work is good enough: *Mick was kept back for a year at college after he failed all his exams.*

keep down

1 **keep** *sth* **down** | **keep down** *sth*

to prevent the size, cost, or quantity of something from increasing, or to keep it at a low level: *No sugar, thanks – I'm trying to keep my weight down.*

keep prices/costs down *The store keeps prices down by asking customers to bag their own groceries.*

2 **keep** *sth* **down** | **keep down** *sth*

used to ask someone to make less noise

keep your voice down *Keep your voice down – she'll hear you!*

keep it down *Can you ask the kids to keep it down a bit – I'm trying to work.*

3 **keep down/keep your head down**

to stay close to the ground when you are hiding or in danger of being hit by something: *My mother told me to keep down and stay quiet so the guard wouldn't spot us.*

4 **keep** *sth* **down** | **keep down** *sth*

to succeed in keeping food in your stomach after eating it, instead of bringing it up again out of your mouth, especially with difficulty because you are ill: *He drank some of the medicine, but he couldn't keep it down.* | *Anna was feeling much better – she'd managed to keep down the bread she'd eaten.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold down**

● OPPOSITE: **bring up**

5 **keep down** *sb* | **keep** *sb* **down**

to keep people under strict control or limit their freedom in an unfair way: *Women have been kept down for far too long.* | *an oppressive society in which people from ethnic minorities were kept down*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold down, oppress** *formal*

keep from

1 **keep** *sb/sth* **from** *sth*

to prevent someone from doing something or to prevent something from happening

keep sb from doing sth *At the stadium police kept fans from coming onto the field.* | *Bains complained that he had been kept from seeing his children by his ex-wife.*

keep sb from sth *I hope I haven't kept you from your work.*

keep sth from doing sth *Stand the plant in a bowl of water to keep the soil from getting dry.*

2 **keep (yourself) from doing** *sth*

to prevent yourself from doing something, with difficulty: *I looked quickly away to keep from laughing.* | *It was all Dinah could do to keep from shouting.* | *He tried to keep himself from getting too tired.*

3 **keep** *sth* **from** *sb*

to prevent someone from knowing something, by deliberately not telling them about it: *The government had wanted to keep this information from the public.* | *I felt that he was keeping something from me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **withhold** *formal*

keep in

1 **keep** *sb* **in**

especially BrE to make someone stay in a place, especially as a punishment: *The children had behaved so badly that the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.*

2 **keep** *sb* **in**

to make someone stay in a hospital because they are too ill to go home: *They kept me in overnight just for observation.*

3 **keep in**

BrE used to warn someone to walk or travel near the side of the road instead of in the middle: *Keep in! There's a car coming.*

keep in with

keep in with *sb*

BrE to try to remain friendly with someone and make them continue to like you: *Young people often do silly things because they want to keep in with their friends.* | *It's always a good idea to keep in with the boss.*

keep off

1 **keep off** *sth*

to not go onto an area of land: *The children had been told to keep off the beach.* | *There was a sign saying, 'Keep off the grass.'*

2 **keep** *sb/sth* **off** *sth*

to prevent someone or something from going onto an area of land, a road etc: *Please could you keep the children off the flower beds.* | *Rain kept both teams off the pitch for long periods.* | *The government hopes that improving public transport will keep more cars off the roads.*

3 **keep** *sth* **off** *sth/sb* | **keep** *sth* **off** | **keep off** *sth*

to prevent something from touching or harming something or someone: *Jinny was wearing a hood to keep off the rain.* | *How are we going to keep these flies off the food?*

4 **keep your hands off** *sb/sth*

to not touch or go too close to someone or something: *"Keep your hands off me!" Linda shouted at Don.*

K

5 **keep off** *sth*

to not eat, drink, or take something that is bad for you: *If you want to lose weight, you should keep off fatty foods.* | *To the surprise and admiration of his friends, Patrick was still keeping off alcohol.*

6 **keep** *sb* **off** *sth*

to stop someone from eating, drinking, or taking something that is bad for them: *The programme is aimed at keeping teenagers off drugs.*

7 **keep off** *sth*

especially BrE to avoid talking about a particular subject, especially because it might upset someone: *I think we ought to keep off the subject of personal relationships.* | *Maud tried to keep off political subjects to avoid any arguments.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **avoid, stay off**

8 **keep** *sth* **off** | **keep off** *sth*

if you keep weight off, you do not get heavier again after you have lost weight: *It's usually easier to lose weight than to keep it off.* | *Sussman has now kept off twenty-five pounds for five years.*

● OPPOSITE: **put on**

9 **keep off**

BrE if bad weather keeps off, it does not begin, although it looks as if it might begin soon: *The rain kept off until we boarded our coach at 6.15.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold off**

keep on

1 **keep on doing** *sth* | **keep on**

to continue to do something or go somewhere

keep on doing sth *No car appeared so she kept on walking with new determination.* | *The album has made almost three million dollars in sales around the world, and people keep on buying it.*

keep on *When I started to smoke the cigarette I felt really ill, but I kept on because everyone else was doing it.*

keep on with sth *If it continues to rain, the players won't be able to keep on with the game.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **continue, carry on**

2 **keep on doing** *sth*

to do something many times: *I don't like to keep on borrowing money from the bank.* | *Kilkenny's a brilliant player – he just keeps on scoring goals.*

3 **keep on**

to continue to talk about something in an annoying or boring way

+ about *I wish my parents wouldn't keep on about my exams all the time.*

keep on and on *I know what you think, so there's no need to keep on and on about it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on, harp on** *BrE informal*

4 **keep** *sb* **on** | **keep on** *sb*

to continue to employ someone, especially for longer than you had planned, or for longer than other people are employed: *After Craig's retirement, he was kept on temporarily as a special assistant.* | *The company have kept on a staff of thirty, out of the original 900.*

keep on at

keep on at *sb* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to tell someone something or ask them something many times, especially in a way that is annoying or unreasonable: *If I didn't keep on at the children, they'd never get their homework done.* | *Please don't keep on at me. I'd tell you if I knew.* | *He had a bad leg but they still kept on at him to hurry up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go on at, nag**

keep out

1 **keep out**

to not go into a place or building: *Danger: Keep out!* | *They boarded up the windows and put up 'Keep Out' notices.*

+ of *Please keep out of my office when I'm not there.*

2 **keep** *sb/sth* **out** | **keep out** *sb/sth*

to prevent someone or something from coming into a place or building: *Barricades were put up to keep out the protestors.* | *We closed the curtains to keep out the light.* | *You will need a strong fence to keep foxes out.*

+ of *I try to keep the children out of the kitchen when I'm cooking.*

keep out of

1 **keep** *sb/sth* **out of** *sth*

to prevent someone or something from getting involved in a situation: *Anna had tried hard to keep John out of her life.* | *They managed very cleverly to keep their country out of the war.*

2 **keep out of** *sth*

to not get involved in a situation: *Phil was one of those children who can't manage to keep out of trouble.* | *"What's the matter?" I asked. "You keep out of this," Charlie replied sharply.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay out of**

keep to

1 **keep to** *sth*

to stay in one particular area or place: *"Keep to the centre of the track," said Bailey.* | *The*

weather was so bad we had to keep to the house for the first two days.

2 **keep to** *sth*

to do what has been decided in an agreement or plan, or what is demanded by law: *It is vital that they keep to the peace agreement.* | *We are still keeping to our aims of achieving greater equality.* | *There would be fewer accidents if people kept to the speed limits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to, keep to, abide by** *formal*

3 **keep** *sth* **to** *sth*

usually passive to limit something to a particular number or amount: *Your stories should be kept to no more than 500 words.*

keep sth to a minimum *Hospital waiting times must be kept to a minimum.*

4 **keep** *sth* **to yourself**

to not tell anyone about something: *What I'm going to tell you now is a secret. Can you keep it to yourself?* | *Maria guessed that Larry was in trouble, but she kept her suspicions to herself.*

5 **keep yourself to yourself** *BrE*

keep to yourself *AmE*

to prefer to be alone rather than with other people: *Tom didn't like meetings and village events and he kept himself to himself.*

6 **keep to** *sth*

to continue to talk about one particular subject, instead of starting to talk about others: *"Please try and keep to the subject under discussion," the chairman said.*

keep to the point *He's a hopeless teacher. He can't keep to the point.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to**

keep up

1 **keep up** *sth* **keep** *sth* **up**

to continue doing something: *The doctor advised me to keep up the treatment for two weeks.* | *All the way home the kids kept up a non-stop flow of questions.* | *Any exercise is good for you, but ideally you should keep it up regularly.*

keep up the good work (=continue to work hard and well) *Our manager's always coming round telling each of us to keep up the good work.*

keep it up (=continue to work hard and well) *He had been revising for nearly five weeks and felt he couldn't keep it up for much longer.*

2 **keep up**

if something keeps up, it continues without stopping or changing: *It had been raining for days, and everyone was wondering how long it could keep up.* | *If things keep up like this, we'll all be millionaires soon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **continue**

3 **keep up**

to go as quickly as someone else: *Maggie had a stone in her shoe, and was finding it hard to keep up.*

+ with *Sometimes Emmie followed Nick. She had to walk fast to keep up with him.*

4 **keep up**

to manage to do as much or as well as other people: *Teachers should offer advice to children in hospital on how to keep up at school.*

+ with *Older employees often find it difficult to keep up with their younger colleagues.* | *"He had enormous energy," Deborah said. "I felt I could never keep up with him."*

keep up with the Joneses (=try to have the same possessions and way of life as other people, so that they will think you are as good, rich etc as them) *Until she was forty, Gemma's life consisted of microwaves and mobile phones and keeping up with the Joneses.*

● OPPOSITE: **fall behind**

5 **keep up**

to keep changing the way in which you do something because the situation you are in keeps changing

+ with *In the car industry, many of the smaller firms have been unable to keep up with the pace of change.*

keep up with demand (=supply as much of something as is wanted, especially when the amount is increasing quickly) *It's difficult to produce these computer games fast enough to keep up with demand.*

keep up *Young people's fashions change so quickly nowadays that you need a lot of money to keep up.*

6 **keep up**

to know about and understand all the most recent facts in a situation

+ with *We encourage all our employees to keep up with new technical developments.*

keep up *Technology changes all the time. It's almost impossible to keep up.*

7 **keep up** *sth* **keep** *sth* **up**

to make something continue at its present level or amount, instead of letting it decrease: *Nato kept up the pressure on the Serbs to get out of Kosovo.* | *You need to have a good meal now to keep your strength up.*

8 **keep up**

if one process keeps up with another, it increases at the same speed so that they stay at the same level

+ with *In most African countries, food production is not keeping up with population growth.* | *Salaries have not kept up with inflation in the last few years.*

9 **keep up** *sth* **keep** *sth* **up**

to continue to practise a skill or subject that you learned in the past so that you do not forget it: *I was keen to keep up the French that I had learned when I worked at the resort.* | *George used to play the piano, but I'm afraid he hasn't kept it up.*

10 **keep** *sth* **up** **keep up** *sth*

to look after a building and pay for any work that needs to be done, so that it stays in good condition: *In the end the family had to sell the house. They didn't have enough money to keep it up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **maintain** *formal*

upkeep N [SINGULAR]
the process and cost of looking after a building: *On a house this size, the upkeep is enormous.*

11 **keep** *sb* **up** **keep up** *sb*

to prevent someone from going to bed at the usual time: *One of the students kept Mike up for hours talking about her problems.* | *The noise from the party kept us all up.*

keep up with

keep up with *sb*

to write to, telephone, or meet a friend regularly, so that you do not forget each other: *I've kept up with several of my schoolfriends, especially the ones that live near me.*

KEY

keyed, keyed, keying

key in

1 **key** *sth* **in** **key in** *sth*

to type information into a computer: *If you key your message in first, I'll show you how to send it.* | *Most people key in their work themselves now.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **type in, enter**

2 **be keyed up**

to be very nervous or excited about something: *Travis arrived, keyed up at the thought of seeing Rosemary again.* | *We were all keyed up and ready to go.*

KICK

kicked, kicked, kicking

kick about

SEE **kick around**

kick against ALSO kick out against

kick (out) against *sth*

to show that you feel angry with something because it controls your life in a way that you do not like: *It's the story of a young girl growing up and kicking against society.* | *Getting married too young can place demands on people, which they will eventually kick out against.*

kick around ALSO kick about *BrE*

1 **kick around/about** *sth*

kick *sth* **around/about**

informal to discuss an idea with a group of people in an informal way: *We've been kicking around the idea of asking Gretsky to join our team.* | *The idea of a business merger has been kicked around for more than a year now.*

2 **be kicking around/about (** *sth* **)**

informal if something is kicking around a place, it is somewhere in that place but it has been forgotten about, or not used for a long time: *I found a photograph of his last girlfriend kicking about among the clothes on the floor.* | *That book's been kicking around the house for ages, but now that I want it, it's disappeared!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be knocking around** *informal*, **be lying around** *informal*

3 **kick around/about** *sth*

kick around/about

informal to spend time in a place or travelling around a place, doing whatever you want to do or doing very little: *After university, I decided to kick around Europe for the summer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bum around** *informal*

4 **kick** *sb* **around/about** USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to treat someone badly or unfairly, especially by expecting them to do whatever you tell them to do: *She's always being kicked around by him – I don't know why she stays.*

get kicked around/about *Some of the staff definitely feel that they get kicked around too much.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shove around, push around**

kick back

1 **kick back**

AmE informal to relax: *Stewart decided to kick back and enjoy himself Wednesday afternoon. | The players have been kicking back a little between Tuesday's game and their next game tonight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax**

2 **kick back** *sth* **kick** *sth* **back**

AmE to pay someone part of the money you earned from a deal because they helped you to make the deal. This is usually done in a secret or illegal way: *The travel agencies kicked back part of their commission to corporations who signed contracts with them.*

kickback N [C,U]
AmE money that you pay to someone because they have helped get a larger amount of money, usually from a secret or illegal deal, plan etc: *Roth has been charged with collecting more than $224,000 in kickbacks from companies that sold supplies to his employer.*

kick down

kick *sth* **down** **kick down** *sth*

to break a door or other structure by kicking it violently: *He threatened to kick down the door if she didn't open it.*

kick in

1 **kick in** *sth* **kick** *sth* **in**

to break open a door, window etc by kicking it very hard, especially in order to enter a building: *Firemen kicked in a window and managed to get the children out of the house. | When we got home, we found that the door had been kicked in and several things were missing.*

2 **kick in**

informal to start to have an effect or start to work: *For some people it can take several hours before the effects of the drug kick in. | Sales of between 10,000 and 30,000 copies are needed before profits kick in. | The heating will kick in if the temperature falls below a certain level.*

K

3 **kick in** *sth* **kick in**

AmE to join with others in giving money or help: *If you and your neighbors will donate $100, I'll kick in $300. | He doesn't really kick in and do his share of the housework.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contribute, chip in** *informal*

kick off

1 **kick off** **kick off** *sth* **kick** *sth* **off**

if an event kicks off or you kick it off, it starts: *The conference is scheduled to kick off at noon.*

+ with *Phelps kicked off the night's music with a beautiful Mozart symphony.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, start**

2a **kick off**

if a game of football kicks off, the game starts: *The game kicked off an hour late after heavy rain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, start**

kick-off N [C]
the time when a game of football starts, or the first kick: *Leeds were the better team right from kick-off.*

2b **kick off**

if a team or its players kick off, they start to play a game: *We'll have to hurry if we want to watch the match – they're kicking off at seven o'clock.*

+ against *England will kick off against France at 2 o'clock this afternoon.*

3 **kick off**

BrE informal to become angry and start complaining or criticizing someone or something

+ about *Don't tell Daniel – he's bound to kick off about it.*

kick out

kick *sb/sth* **out** **kick out** *sb/sth*

to force someone or something to leave a place, organization, or position of power: *The landlord kicked me out of my apartment as soon as I couldn't pay the rent. | I'm sure this government will be kicked out at the next general election.*

+ of *Amy was kicked out of university for failing her exams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chuck out** *informal*, **throw out** *informal*, **boot out** *informal*

kick out against

SEE **kick against**

kick over

kick over

AmE if an engine kicks over, it starts working: *It won't kick over, so I guess we'll have to tow the car to the garage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

kick up

1 **kick up a fuss/kick up a stink**

BrE to complain a lot about something so that people will know that you are very annoyed about it: *People in the neighbourhood are kicking up a fuss about the noise from the*

airport. | *Many businesses have been kicking up a stink about the high interest rates.*

2 **kick up a storm/controversy**

to cause a lot of trouble or discussion about something: *If the government goes ahead with the new tax, it will kick up a political storm.*

3 **kick up** *sth* | **kick** *sth* **up**

AmE informal to increase something, usually a price: *When the landlord kicked up his rent, Mallory packed his bags and left without notice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise, increase, hike up** *informal*

KID

kidded, kidded, kidding

kid around

kid around USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal, especially AmE to make jokes and behave in a silly way: *Don't pay any attention to him. He's just kidding around.* | *Stop kidding around and get on with your work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess about/around** *informal*

KILL

killed, killed, killing

kill off

1 **kill off** *sth/sb* | **kill** *sth/sb* **off**

to kill things or people in large numbers or so that there are none left: *There is a danger that agricultural chemicals will pollute the water and kill off the wildlife.* | *A lot of the children died in those days – poverty and disease killed them off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wipe out**

2 **kill off** *sth* | **kill** *sth* **off**

to destroy or get rid of something completely and finally: *The show was so unpopular that the producers decided to kill it off.* | *The new figures are likely to kill off any hope of an early economic recovery.*

3 **kill off** *sb* | **kill** *sb* **off**

if a writer kills off a character in a story, television series etc, the writer makes that character die: *Of course, we all know that James Bond will never be killed off – but the scene was still very exciting.*

KIP

kip down

kip down

BrE informal to sleep on something that is not a bed, for example on the floor or a chair, or to sleep at someone else's house: *The party didn't finish till three in the morning, so I kipped down at Jane's house.*

+ on *You have the bed, I'll kip down on the sofa.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doss down** *BrE informal*, **bed down**

KISS

kiss away

kiss away *sth* | **kiss** *sth* **away**

informal to kiss someone to try to take away their pain or unhappiness and make them feel better: *Harry held her tightly, kissing away her tears.*

kiss off

1 **kiss off!**

AmE spoken informal used when you want to tell someone to go away or stop saying rude things: *Kiss off, Joe! If you can't say anything nice, then just shut up!*

2 **kiss off** *sth* | **kiss** *sth* **off**

AmE informal to decide that something is not worth the time, effort, money etc or that it cannot work, and therefore you will not be a part of it: *Perhaps you can talk about your differences with your wife instead of just kissing off the relationship.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up**

kiss up to

kiss up to *sb*

AmE informal to try to please someone, especially in order to get them to do something for you: *Dan is perfectly capable of getting a promotion without kissing up to the boss.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suck up** *informal*, **creep (up) to** *BrE*

KIT

kitted, kitted, kitting

kit out

kit *sb/sth* **out** | **kit out** *sb/sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to provide someone or something with the clothes or equipment they need for a particular activity

+ with *First you will be kitted out with a safety helmet and a lamp.* | *The London studio is lavishly kitted out with six cameras.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit out** *especially BrE*

be kitted out/up in

be kitted out/up in *sth*

BrE to be dressed in clothes of a particular type, especially ones that are suitable for a particular activity: *The children were kitted out in matching silver ski suits.* | *He was kitted up in a white T-shirt and blue shorts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear**

KNEEL

knelt or *kneeled, knelt* or *kneeled, kneeling*

kneel down

kneel down

to move into a position in which your knees are on the ground and your body is resting on your knees: *She knelt down and put her arms around the child.*

be kneeling down (=be in a position in which your knees are on the ground and your body is resting on your knees) *The people in the church were kneeling down, waiting for the final prayers.*

KNIT

knitted or *knit, knitted* or *knit, knitting*

knit together

1 **knit together** *sth/sb*

knit *sth/sb* **together** USUALLY PASSIVE

if two or more people are knit together by something, they are united by it: *Communities are knit together by laws, religion and custom.* | *The two families were knitted together by blood and marriage.*

2 **knit together**

if people or things knit together, they fit together or work together well: *In an essay you must make sure that the sentences in each paragraph knit together logically.* | *The lads in the team have knitted together extremely well.*

3 **knit together**

BrE if broken bones knit together, they join and grow together again: *I had to rest my leg for a month, to give the bones a chance to knit together.*

K

KNOCK

knocked, knocked, knocking

knock around/about

1 **knock** *sb* **around/about**

informal to hit or kick someone several times: *Her husband was a big man with a bad temper. He used to knock her around.*

get knocked about *There was one boy who was always covered in bruises – he got knocked about at home.*

2 **knock around/about** *sth*

knock around/about

informal to spend time somewhere, without doing anything very serious or important: *I didn't want to leave the city now. I'd spent enough time knocking about in the country.* | *After three years knocking around at university, Sammy still had no idea about a future career.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick around** informal

3 **be knocking around/about**

informal if something is knocking around, it is in a particular place, but it has been forgotten about, or not used for a long time: *I used to play a little violin that I found knocking around in the attic.* | *There seem to be a lot of BMWs knocking around these days.* | *It's surprising how few good acting parts there are knocking around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick around, be kicking around/about** informal

4 **knock** *sth* **around/about**

BrE to kick or hit a ball around, especially in a not very serious way: *They didn't look like a team who wanted to win. They were just knocking the ball about.*

5 **knock around/about** *sth*

to spend time in a place or travelling around a place, doing whatever you want to do or doing very little: *Like Jules, Sarah had knocked around the world a bit and seen a lot of places.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick around** informal, **bum around** informal

knock around/about with

knock around/about with *sb*

BrE to spend your free time with someone, because they are your friend or because you are having a relationship with them: *On Saturdays I knock around with my friends from school.* | *Moore used to knock around with a very strange-looking woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around with, hand out with** informal, especially AmE

knock back

1 **knock back** *sth* **knock** *sth* **back**

informal to drink something, especially alcohol, quickly or in large amounts: *I watched him knock back a whole bottle of wine in fifteen minutes.* | *She poured herself a glass of whisky and knocked it back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put away** informal especially spoken

PHRASAL VERB ACTIVATOR

This special section contains 16 different topic areas, in which groups of phrasal verbs that are similar in meaning are shown together. For example, around the topic area CLOTHES, you will find various phrasal verbs meaning to **put on** clothes, and also various phrasal verbs meaning to **take off** clothes. Once you have found the group of phrasal verbs you are interested in, you can then check in the main part of the dictionary to find out exactly what each phrasal verb means.

CLOTHES

to put clothes on your body

- put on
- try on
- pull on
- slip on
- slip into
- have on
- throw on
- sling on

to put on formal or special clothes, for example, for a party

- dress up
- tart yourself up
- doll yourself up

to fasten your shoes, buttons etc

- do up
- tie up
- lace up

to put on special clothes for warmth, protection etc

- wrap up
- muffle up
- be kitted out/up in *BrE*

to take off your clothes

- take off
- strip off
- peel off
- slip out of
- slip off
- strip down to
- tear off
- rip off

to be able to fit into your clothes

- get into
- grow into
- grow out of

to wear informal clothes

- dress down

COMPUTERS

to start using a computer
- log on/in/into
- sign on
- boot up
- power up

to stop using a computer
- log off/out/out of
- shut down

when a computer stops working
- go down
- shut down

to put information into a computer
- key in
- put in
- type in
- scan in
- punch in
- tap in

to use a computer and get information from it
- call up
- click on
- page up/down
- scroll up/down
- come up

to use someone else's computer system secretly
- hack into
- break into
- tap into

to print things from a computer
- print out
- print off
- run off

CONTINUE

to continue to do something
- carry on
- keep on
- go on
- go ahead
- keep up

to continue with your work
- get on with
- press on
- plough on *BrE*
  plow on *AmE*
- bash on *BrE*
- crack on *BrE*
- keep at it

to continue until something is finished
- see sth through

to continue to do something although it is difficult
- struggle on
- soldier on
- stick at sth
- stick it out
- tough it out

to continue a journey
- push on
- press on
- drive on

when something continues in the normal way
- tick over
- jog along
- plod on/along

to stop something from being able to continue
- hold up

DRINKING

to drink something very quickly
- gulp down
- knock back
- toss back/down
- drink down
- swill down

to drink all of something
- drink up
- finish up
- polish off
- lap up

to put drinks into people's glasses or cups
- pour out
- fill up
- top up *BrE*

to drink a little or drink slowly
- sip at/on

to drink something with difficulty
- choke down
- force down

to stop drinking alcohol
- dry out

to drink a lot of alcohol
- tank up *AmE*
  get tanked up
- be bevvied up *BrE*
- lager up *BrE*
- liquor up *AmE*
- knock back

to mix a drink with something else
- water down
- lace with

when you have drunk too much alcohol
- be hung over
- sleep off

DRIVING

to start driving

- start up the engine
- drive away
- drive off
- pull out
- pull away

to drive more quickly

- speed up
- step on it
- step on the gas *AmE*
- pull ahead

to leave the road you are driving on

- turn off
- pull off
- pull over

to drive more slowly or stop

- slow down
- slow up
- pull in/into
- pull up
- draw up
- slam on the brakes
- jam on the brakes *BrE*

when a car stops working

- break down
- run out of petrol/ gas
- conk out

to put fuel in a car

- fill up
- gas up *AmE*

to have an accident

- crash into
- smash into
- plough *BrE* plow into *AmE*
- smash up *BrE*
- write off *BrE*

to drive in front of someone in a dangerous way

- cut up *BrE*
- cut off *AmE*

when someone is hit by a car

- run over
- run down
- knock over
- knock down

EATING

to eat a lot
- pig out
- feast on/upon
- gorge on
- fill yourself up
- put away
- pack away

to eat a little or eat slowly
- pick at
- peck at
- nibble on/at
- toy with
- snack on
- dip into

to eat something very quickly
- wolf down
- gobble up/down
- polish off
- bolt down *BrE*
- scarf down *AmE*

to start eating
- dig in
- dive into
- tuck in/into *BrE*

to eat all of something
- eat up
- finish up
- finish off
- polish off
- lick up

to eat something with difficulty
- force down
- choke down

to eat a particular type of food
- feed on/off
- live on/off

to eat at home or take food home to eat
- eat in
- take out *AmE*
- take away *BrE*

to eat in a restaurant
- eat out
- dine out

to serve food for people to eat
- serve up
- dish up
- lay on

LEAVE

to leave the place where you are
- go away
- go off
- rush off
- dash off
- take off
- run away/off
- be called away

to leave at the start of a journey
- set off
- head off
- drive off
- take off

to leave because you are angry
- walk out
- storm out

to leave quietly
- sneak off/away
- slope off
- slip out/away
- slink away/off

to leave for a short time
- nip out *BrE*
- pop out *BrE*
- step out *AmE*

to leave your home
- move out

to make someone leave
- kick sb out
- throw sb out
- chase sb away
- frighten sb away

to leave your job or school
- pack it in
- jack it in
- drop out
- hand in your resignation/notice

ways of telling someone to leave because they are annoying you
- go away
- get out
- clear off
- piss off

LIKE/DISLIKE

to like someone or something
- take to
- fall for
- go for
- go in for *BrE*
- see sth in sb

to start to like someone or something
- warm to
- warm up *AmE*
- grow on
- come round/around to

to like someone or something very much
- rave about/rave over
- revel in
- be sold on
- go down well
- go over well

to not like someone or something
- not care for
- have sth against
- react against
- take against
- not be struck on *BrE*
- go down badly

to make someone like you
- win over/round
- endear to
- get in with
- cozy up to
- creep up to *BrE*
- suck up to
- kiss up *AmE*

to stop liking someone or something
- go off *BrE*
- turn against
- tire of

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP

to have a romantic or sexual relationship

- go out with
- go out together
- sleep together
- cheat on

to start having a permanent relationship

- settle down
- shack up

to have sex with someone

- sleep with
- have it off *BrE*
- make out *AmE*
- get off with *BrE*
- sleep around

when two people like each other as friends

- get on *BrE*
- get along
- hit it off
- take to

to try to persuade someone to have a romantic or sexual relationship with you

- chat up
- ask out
- chase after
- come on to
- hit on *AmE*

when a friendship ends

- fall out
- drift apart
- grow apart

when a romantic or sexual relationship ends

- split up
- break up
- finish with *BrE*
- break off with
- walk out

ON THE TELEPHONE

to telephone someone

- call up *esp AmE*
- phone up *BrE*
- ring up *BrE*
- get through
- call in
- phone in *BrE*
- ring in *BrE*
- pick up the phone
- dial out

to end a phone call

- hang up
- ring off *BrE*
- put down the phone
- get off the phone

to telephone someone again later

- call back
- phone back *BrE*
- ring back *BrE*
- try back

when the phone suddenly stops working

- get cut off

to telephone a lot of people

- call around
- ring round/around *BrE*
- phone round/around

to wait for someone on the phone

- hang on
- hold on

to connect someone to another person on the phone

- put sb through
- put sb on

PROBLEMS

when a problem happens

- come up
- crop up

to find you have a problem

- run up against
- run into
- be faced with
- come up against
- be confronted with
- contend with

to deal with a problem

- deal with
- grapple with
- attend to
- sort out
- iron out
- straighten out
- get around (*also* round *BrE*)
- figure out *esp AmE*
- wrestle with
- grapple with
- hash out *AmE*

to prevent problems

- guard against
- hedge against

to think about or talk about a problem

- talk over
- talk through
- talk out
- think over
- think through
- thrash out
- work through

SLEEPING & AWAKE

to gradually start sleeping

- doze off
- drop off
- drift off
- nod off
- get off (to sleep) *BrE*
- go off *BrE*

to feel tired suddenly and start sleeping

- crash out
- flake out
- pass out
- zonk out
- conk out *esp AmE*
- sack out *AmE*

to sleep somewhere where you usually do not sleep

- bed down
- doss down *BrE*
- kip down *BrE*
- bunk down *BrE*

to sleep later in the morning than usual

- sleep in
- lie in *BrE*

to not go to bed

- stay up
- wait up
- sit up

to sleep outdoors

- camp out
- sleep out *BrE*

to stop sleeping

- wake up

to sleep at someone else's house

- sleep over
- stay over
- stop over *BrE*

to stop someone from sleeping

- wake sb up
- keep sb up
- knock sb up *BrE*

START

to start doing some work
- get down to
- get stuck into
- set about

to start a company, shop, organization etc
- start up
- set up
- open up

to start doing something new
- take up
- get into
- break into
- embark on
- branch out

to make something start happening
- set off
- trigger off

to start talking about something
- get into
- get back to

to make something start working
- switch on
- turn on
- put on
- power up

STOP

to stop doing something

- give up
- pack up
- chuck in
- pack in
- jack in

to make a machine, light etc stop working

- switch off
- turn off
- turn out
- put off
- flick off
- shut down

to stop annoying someone

- pack it in!
- knock it off!
- back off
- leave off

a machine stops working

- break down
- conk out
- cut out
- shut down
- go down

to stop talking

- shut up
- clam up
- dry up
- break off

TV/RADIO/ LIGHTS/MACHINES

to make something start working

- switch on
- turn on
- put on
- start up
- plug in
- connect up
- set off
- power up

when something starts working

- come on
- go on
- warm up

to make something louder

- turn up
- put up
- crank up *AmE*

to make something quieter

- turn down
- put down

to make something stop working

- switch off
- turn off
- shut off
- put out the light
- turn out the light

when something stops working

- break down
- go off
- give out
- conk out
- jam up *esp BrE*
- pack up *BrE*
- play up
- poop out *AmE*
- cut out
- be clapped out

WEATHER

when the weather gets worse

- cloud over
- close in
- blow up
- come on to

when the weather gets better

- brighten up
- clear up
- warm up
- let up
- blow over
- blow itself out

when the weather prevents something from happening

- be rained off *BrE*
- be rained out *AmE*
- be snowed in
- be socked in *AmE*
- be washed out

the sun

- come out
- go in
- beat down
- come up
- go down

when it rains a lot

- pour down
- be pelting down
- lash down
- be tipping down *BrE*
- be chucking it down *BrE*

when it does not rain although it looks as if it will

- hold off
- keep off

the wind

- get up
- die down
- blow down

2 **knock** *sth/sb* **back**

BrE informal to prevent something or someone from making progress or improving: *The delay has knocked work back two years.* | *You've been very ill, and if you go to Mick's party it will really knock you back.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set back**

3 **knock** *sb* **back**

BrE informal to shock or surprise someone: *When my Dad went off with another woman, it knocked us all back.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shock**

4 **knock** *sb* **back** *sth*

BrE informal to cost you a particular amount of money, especially a lot of money: *A new computer will knock you back at least a thousand pounds.* | *How much did the flights knock you back?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set back**

5 **knock** *sth/sb* **back** **knock back** *sth/sb*

BrE informal to refuse an offer that someone has made: *The football club made an offer for the thirty-five-year-old player, but it was knocked back.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn down**

knock down

1 **knock** *sb* **down** **knock down** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a vehicle knocks someone down, it hits them so that they fall to the ground and may be injured or killed: *Michael Hutchence was knocked down by a taxi as he left the nightclub.* | *As Tracey was getting out of her car, a motorcycle nearly knocked her down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **knock over, run over**

2 **knock down** *sth* **knock** *sth* **down**

to deliberately destroy and remove a building or a part of a building: *We could knock down this wall and have one large room instead of two.* | *A lot of the older houses were knocked down to make space for new ones.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **demolish** *formal*

3 **knock** *sth* **down** **knock down** *sth*

to reduce the price of something

+ to *The agents recommended knocking the price down to £150,000, and we agreed.*

+ from *He's knocked down the painting from $200 to $170.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

knockdown ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a knockdown price is very cheap: *In the end the land was sold at a knockdown price.*

4 **knock** *sb* **down**

informal to persuade someone to reduce the price of something they are selling you

+ to *She wanted £2,000 for the car, but I knocked her down to £1,800.*

5 **knock down** *sth* **knock** *sth* **down**

to prove or argue that an idea, suggestion etc is not right, or not worth considering: *They knocked down the proposal on the grounds that it was not practical.* | *His argument was completely illogical, and easily knocked down.*

knock off

1 **knock off** *sth* **knock** *sth* **off**

informal to reduce a price by a particular amount: *Discount travel agencies may be able to knock off a few hundred dollars from the price of international tickets.* | *I'll knock £100 off your loan if you repay it by the end of the month.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take off, deduct** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **add on**

2 **knock it off!**

spoken informal used to tell someone to stop doing something that is annoying you: *Knock it off, Liz! There's no reason to drive like an idiot!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop it!, cut it out!**

3 **knock off** *sth* **knock** *sth* **off**

informal to reduce a total by a particular amount: *I'd like to knock a minute off my running time.* | *I've been knocking off 200 extra calories a day but still not losing weight.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take off**

4 **knock off** *sb/sth* **knock** *sb/sth* **off**

AmE informal to defeat a person or team in a race, game etc: *The Bulls had knocked off The Rockets in the first round, winning 109–34.* | *The new Ohio Representative knocked off his opponent by only 1,000 votes in the last election.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **defeat**

5 **knock off**

informal to stop working because it is time to go home, have your midday meal etc: *All the factory workers knock off at 3 p.m. on Fridays.* | *I'm going to knock off early today.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **finish work**

6 **knock off** *sb* **knock** *sb* **off**

informal to murder someone: *He'll get knocked off for sure if the gang finds out where he's hiding.* | *The gang knocked them off and quickly fled the scene.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **murder, bump off** *informal*

7 **knock off** *sth*

informal to copy a product without permission, usually so you can sell it for less money than the real product: *This store is known for knocking off young, designer styles and turning them into affordable clothing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **copy**

knockoff ADJ
informal cheaply made to look like something more expensive

knockoff N [C]
informal a cheap, low-quality product that is made to look like a similar product of higher quality: *Channel 12's new game show is just a knock-off of 'Hollywood Squares.'*

8 **knock off** *sth* | **knock** *sth* **off**

informal to produce or finish something very easily and quickly: *Although famous for his long novels, Ken Bradford also likes to knock off short stories from time to time.* | *I had tons of work to do, but I knocked it off in no time and went out for a beer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **churn out**

9 **knock** *sth* **off** | **knock off** *sth*

BrE informal to steal something: *Who would want to knock off these old bicycles?* | *knock-off goods*

* SIMILAR TO: **steal, nick** *BrE informal*

10 **knock off** *sb* | **knock** *sb* **off**

BrE informal to have sex with someone: *Apparently he'd been knocking off one of his secretaries in the lunch hour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw** *informal*, **have it off with sb** *BrE spoken informal*

knock out

1 **knock** *sb* **out** | **knock out** *sb*

to make someone become unconscious, for example by hitting them in a fight of giving them drugs: *Louis knocked out his opponent in the first round.* | *I hit him on the jaw and knocked him out.* | *The nurse gave him some pills to knock him out.*

knock yourself out (=make yourself unconscious, especially by hitting your head on something) *She fell against the sink and managed to knock herself out.*

knockout ADJ
informal a knockout blow is a blow that makes someone unconscious: *a knockout punch*

2 **knock** *sb/sth* **out** | **knock out** *sb/sth*

to defeat a person or a team in a competition so that they can no longer take part: *England had been knocked out of the World Cup.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be eliminated** *formal*

knockout N [C]
BrE a competition in which only the people or teams that win one part play in the next part, until one person or team has defeated all the others: *a semi-final knockout* | *a knockout competition*

3 **knock** *sb* **out**

informal if something knocks you out, you are surprised by how good it is: *When I first saw the movie, it really knocked me out.*

knockout ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
informal extremely good: *another knockout performance by Oasis*

be a knockout V PHRASE
informal if someone or something is a knockout, they are extremely good or attractive: *She was a real knockout in that dress.*

4 **knock** *sth* **out** | **knock out** *sth*

AmE to stop the flow of electricity to an area: *High winds have knocked out power in many parts of North Chicago.*

5 **knock** *sb* **out**

informal to make someone extremely tired or sleepy: *It had been a hard day, and I was completely knocked out by the time I got home.*

knock out of

knock *sth* **out of** *sb*

especially BrE if you knock something out of someone, you stop them behaving in that way by being very strict and perhaps unkind: *Leonard was always trouble. His Dad tried to knock it out of him but it made no difference.* | *A lot of the older staff feel that their loyalty to the job has been knocked out of them.*

knock over

1 **knock** *sth/sb* **over** | **knock over** *sth/sb*

to hit or push something or someone, usually by mistake, with the result that they fall down or onto their side: *At that moment Sally jumped up, knocking over her glass of wine.* | *Mike ran along the corridor and nearly knocked Catherine Crane over in his hurry.*

2 **knock** *sb* **over** | **knock over** *sb*

to hit someone with a car while you are driving, with the result that they fall down and are injured or killed: *An eighty-two-year-old woman was knocked over by a van outside her home in Darlington on Sunday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, run over**

knock together

1 **knock** *sth* **together** | **knock together** *sth*

informal to make something quickly and without much effort, especially using things that you find or have by chance: *They'd got sheets*

K

of plastic and bits of wood and knocked them together into some sort of shelter.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **knock up, cobble together**

2 **knock** *sth* **together** | **knock together** *sth*

BrE if you knock together two or more buildings or rooms, you make them into one building or room, by removing the wall that separates them: *Two or three little rooms were knocked together to make one big spacious kitchen.*

knock up

1 **knock up** *sth* | **knock** *sth* **up** | **knock** *sb* **up** *sth*

informal to make something, quickly and without much effort, especially using things that you have or find by chance: *She was the sort of girl who could knock up wonderful dinners in fifteen minutes.* | *Why don't you ask Ian – he could easily knock some shelves up for you.* | *Could you knock us up some cold ham and salad for lunch?*

2 **knock** *sb* **up**

old-fashioned informal if a man knocks a woman up, he makes her pregnant (=a baby starts to grow inside her body), especially when they are not married

get (sb) knocked up *Don't tell anyone, but Bobby's been in a lot of trouble – he got a young girl knocked up over a year ago.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make sb pregnant**

3 **knock** *sb* **up** | **knock up** *sb*

BrE to wake someone, usually during the night, by knocking on the door of their room or house: *It was a great holiday, but we had to be knocked up at three in the morning to catch the plane home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wake up, rouse** *formal*

4 **knock up** *sth* | **knock** *sth* **up**

BrE if you knock up a particular number of points when you are playing a sport or a game, you succeed in winning them: *Cockbain played well for his side, knocking up 59 out of 150.* | *Gloucester knocked up a new record at the weekend – they beat Bridgend by forty-two points to fifteen.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **clock up, notch up** *especially BrE*

5 **knock up**

BrE if you knock up when you play a sport like tennis, you practise hitting the ball to another player, before you start to play a match: *Shall we knock up for a few minutes first?* | *Come and join us – we're only knocking up.*

knock-up N [C]
BrE when players of a sport like tennis practise for a short time before they start to play a match: *The crowd stood up and applauded Becker when his record was read out during the knock-up.*

KNOW

knew, known, knowing

know of

1 **know of** *sb/sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to have heard or read about something or someone, so that you know that they exist: *I know of a woman in Dublin who went to prison for five years for stealing a few pounds.* | *"Did Mr McCarron have any enemies that you know of?" the police inspector asked.*

2 **little/nothing is known of** *sth/sb*

used to say that there is little or no information about something or someone: *Little is known of Henry Best's early years, although his collection of books indicate a good education.*

KNUCKLE

knuckled, knuckled, knuckling

knuckle down

knuckle down

informal to start to work or study more seriously than you have been doing: *Murray called on his players to knuckle down after a series of disappointing results.*

+ to *When Kylie returned to school she was determined to knuckle down to the job of passing her exams.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **buckle down**

knuckle under

knuckle under

to agree to do what someone is trying to force you to do: *Nancy was bullying him now and that was the kind of thing he understood. But would he knuckle under or oppose her?*

+ to *The people will not knuckle under to violence and force.*

KOWTOW

kowtowed, kowtowed, kowtowing

kowtow to

kowtow to *sb/sth*

to do whatever someone who has power or authority wants you to do: *Fabia really loved Vick. But her pride would not allow her to kowtow to him.* | *Since the pharaohs were considered gods, the poor Egyptians were forced to kowtow to their demands.*

L

LABOUR BrE LABOR AmE

laboured, laboured, labouring BrE
labored, labored, laboring AmE

labour under BrE / labor under AmE

1 **labour under a misapprehension/illusion etc**

formal to believe something that is not true, especially with the result that you make wrong decisions: *Western governments still labour under the illusion that diplomatic problems can be resolved by the use of force.*

2 **labour under** *sth*

formal to be badly affected by something which makes it difficult for you to progress or be successful: *Many of the world's poorest countries labor under a massive burden of debt.* | *During the trial the defence laboured under an unfair disadvantage, in that they did not have access to all the evidence.*

LACE

laced, laced, lacing

lace up

lace up *sth* | **lace** *sth* **up**

to fasten shoes, boots, or other clothes by tying the laces (=pieces of string used for fastening shoes etc): *She sat down and laced up her shoes.* | *The boy pulled his boots onto his feet, lacing them up with his trembling fingers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tie up** BrE, **do up**

lace-ups ALSO **lace-up shoes** N [PLURAL] BrE shoes that you fasten with laces

lace with

1 **lace** *sth* **with** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to put alcohol or a drug into someone's food or drink, especially secretly: *Staff found more food in the kitchen which had been laced with the same poison.* | *a thermos of coffee laced with brandy*

* SIMILAR TO: **spike**

2 **be laced with** *sth*

if something is laced with a particular quality, it contains some of it all the way through: *Leigh's play is heavily laced with irony.* | *The whole history of the Orient Express is laced with an air of romance and mystery.*

LADLE

ladled, ladled, ladling

ladle out

1 **ladle out** *sth* | **ladle** *sth* **out**

to serve soup or other food onto dishes using a big spoon: *Alice began ladling out the stew.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spoon out**

2 **ladle out** *sth* | **ladle** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to give people a lot of something, especially information, advice, or praise, without considering whether it is reasonable, suitable, or necessary: *Schools are constantly ladling out advice on drugs and sex to young people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dole out** *informal*, **dish out**

LAG

lagged, lagged, lagging

lag behind

1 **lag behind** | **lag behind** *sb/sth*

to make less progress or be less successful than someone or something else: *In the past girls lagged behind boys in math and science.* | *When it comes to nuclear technology, Britain lags a long way behind France and the US.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

2 **lag behind** | **lag behind** *sb/sth*

to move more slowly than the other people or things in a group, so that you are a long distance behind them: *She noticed that Elisabeth was lagging behind, and paused to wait for her.* | *His horse was lagging behind all the others in the race.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

LAGER

be lagered up

be lagered up

BrE spoken informal to be drunk after drinking too much beer: *The lads must have been well and truly lagered up by the time they left the club.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, pissed** *BrE spoken informal*

LAM

lammed, lammed, lamming

lam into

lam into *sb*

BrE old-fashioned informal to hit someone or speak angrily to them: *They charged through the crowd, lamming into anyone who got in their*

way. | *I know Feargal lammed into you yesterday, but he doesn't mean half of what he says.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay into sb** *informal*

LAND

landed, landed, landing

land in

land (*sb* **) in trouble/jail/court etc**

to get into a bad situation, or put someone in a bad situation: *I hope I haven't landed you in trouble with the boss.* | *Her husband had a violent temper, which often landed him in court.* | *Gasgoine landed in trouble after an all-night drinking session with his friends.*

land sb in it *BrE informal* (=cause a lot of trouble for someone, especially by telling a person in authority about something wrong they have done) *You've really landed me in it this time! I wish you'd kept quiet!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop sb in it** *BrE informal*

land up

1 **land up**

BrE to finally arrive in a place or situation after a lot of other things have happened, especially when this was not intended: *She got on the wrong train and landed up somewhere just outside Newcastle.* | *The letter eventually landed up on his desk a few days later.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **end up, finish up** *BrE informal,* **wind up**

2 **land up doing** *sth*

BrE if you land up doing something, you do it as a result of a series of events, although you did not originally intend to do it: *I expect I'll land up having to do the whole thing myself, as usual.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **end up, finish up** *BrE informal,* **wind up**

land with

land *sb* **with** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE if you are landed with something, especially a job that no one else wants to do or a fine or bill etc, you have to deal with it or pay it: *Penny was always being landed with the job of looking after the kids at weekends.* | *At the end of the trial the defendants found themselves landed with court costs of over $1 million.* | *I knew he'd try to land me with the job of clearing up.*

land yourself with sth *BrE* (=get into situation in which you have to deal with something, or have to pay a lot of money) *I'd do what they say if I were you. You don't want to land yourself with a huge fine.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **saddle with, lumber with** *BrE informal*

LAP

lapped, lapped, lapping

lap up

1 **lap up** *sth* **lap** *sth* **up**

to enjoy something or accept it eagerly, even though it may not be sincere or true – use this especially about praise or attention from other people, or something that someone says: *Ian was clearly lapping up all the attention from his new group of fans.* | *Whenever there's a new story about the royal family, the public are always quick to lap it up.* | *He is constantly surrounded by eager students, lapping up his words of wisdom.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go far, eat up** *AmE informal*

2 **lap up** *sth* **lap** *sth* **up**

if an animal laps up milk, water etc, it drinks the milk, water etc: *The cat was lapping up the milk.*

LAPSE

lapsed, lapsed, lapsing

lapse into

1 **lapse into silence/unconsciousness/ a deep sleep etc**

to become silent, unconscious, or asleep: *Laura lapsed into a frosty silence, staring blindly out through the window.* | *She crawled into her sleeping bag and immediately lapsed into unconsciousness.*

2 **lapse into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to change into a much worse state or condition: *The economy continued to lapse into decline, with manufacturing output down by over 10%.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fall into**

3 **lapse into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to start behaving or speaking in a way that you used to speak or behave in in the past but are now trying not to do so: *Normally she spoke with a very posh English voice, but now and again she lapsed into her native Glasgow accent.* | *Joe managed to give up the drinking for a few months, but he soon lapsed back into his old ways again.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slip into**

LARD

be larded with

be larded with *sth*

if speech or writing is larded with a particular kind of words or remarks, it contains a lot of them – used to show disapproval: *His speech was larded with all the usual clichés*

about 'rights and responsibilities', and 'the importance of family values'.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

LARK

larked, larked, larking

lark about/around

lark about/around USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE to have fun by behaving in a silly way – use this especially about children and young people: *The kids took little interest in her lessons, and spent most of the time larking about.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fool about/around, mess about/around** *informal*

LASH

lashed, lashed, lashing

lash down

lash down ✗

if the rain lashes down, a lot of rain falls and there is also often a lot of wind: *It was a wild evening. The rain was lashing down and the wind was howling through the trees.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pour down, bucket down** *BrE informal*

lash into

lash into *sb*

to criticize someone or something very strongly or angrily: *Buchanan lashed into the plan, saying it would cause more problems than it would solve.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay into**

lash out

1 **lash out**

to suddenly speak angrily to someone or suddenly criticize someone very strongly

+ at/against *Anwar lashed out in fury at his colleagues, accusing them of racism.* | *Preachers were lashing out against the hypocrisy of the US government.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hit out**

2 **lash out**

to suddenly try to hit or attack someone

+ with *Brendan lashed out with his fist and caught the thief on the jaw.*

+ at *He felt like lashing out at her and strangling her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hit out**

3 **lash out on** *sth* **lash out** *sth* **(on** *sth***)**

BrE informal to suddenly spend a lot of money on something, especially a surprisingly large amount of money: *How many people are going to want to lash out £50 on a haircut?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **splash out** *BrE informal*

lash up

lash *sth* **up** **lash up** *sth*

BrE informal to do something badly, especially by making silly mistakes: *Don't give it to Lauren – she'll only lash it up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cock up** *BrE informal*, **mess up** *informal*

LAST

lasted, lasted, lasting

last out

1 **last out** *sth* **last out** ✗

BrE to continue living or continue working properly – use this especially about someone who is very ill, or something that is very old or in bad condition: *His father wasn't expected to last out the night.* | *She wasn't sure if her voice would last out until the end of the concert.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **last**

2 **last out** *sth* **last out** ✗

BrE to continue what you are doing until the job, journey, or experience etc is finished, even though it is difficult or tiring: *The witness was so exhausted that she might not have lasted out the afternoon in court without fainting.* | *"Do you want me to stop the car?" "No, I think I can last out till we get home."*

3 **last out** **last out** *sth* ✗

BrE if supplies of something last out, there is enough for people to use during a period of time: *Is there enough fuel to last out until the next delivery?* | *Supplies of hay for the cattle probably won't last out the winter.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold out, last**

LATCH

latched, latched, latching

latch on/onto

latch on **latch onto** *sth*

BrE informal to understand what someone means or realize that something is happening: *When they explained what kind of songs they wanted, Frank latched on really quickly.* | *By the time I'd latched onto what was happening, the thieves were already halfway down the street with my wallet.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **catch on, cotton on** *BrE informal*

latch on to/onto

1 **latch on to/onto** *sth*

to decide that something is very good or useful and start using it: *People are starting to*

latch onto the idea of shopping on the Internet.

2 **latch on to/onto** *sth* **latch on to/onto** *sb*

to pay a lot of attention to something or someone because you think they are important or interesting: *The press are always quick to latch onto any story involving the Royal family. | Viewers latched on to Jackie Corkhill as a character and sympathized with all the problems she had with the men in her life.*

3 **latch on to/onto** *sb*

latch yourself on to/onto *sb*

to spend time with someone and talk with them, especially when they do not want you with them: *A young man had latched onto her earlier on in the evening, and she was wondering how she could get rid of him politely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **glom onto** *AmE*

4 **latch on to/onto** *sth*

to become firmly joined or stuck to something: *If the insect latches onto your skin, one way of removing it is to use a burning cigarette.*

* SIMILAR TO: **glom onto** *AmE*

LAUGH

laughed, laughed, laughing

laugh at

1 **laugh at** *sth* X

to think that an idea, suggestion etc is very silly and should not be considered in a serious way: *People used to laugh at the idea that one day man could travel to other planets – now it will soon be a reality.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour scorn on, ridicule** *formal*

2 **laugh at** *sb* X

to make jokes about someone and make unkind remarks about them: *The other kids used to laugh at him and call him names.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make fun of, mock**

3 **laugh at** *sth* X

to seem not to care about something that other people think is serious: *Young offenders just laugh at warnings from the police – they know they can't be punished and sent to prison.*

laugh off

laugh *sth* **off** **laugh off** *sth* X

to pretend that you are not worried about a problem or hurt by a criticism by laughing and making jokes about it: *When news of the scandal first came out, White House staff tried to laugh it off. | Cochrane laughed off suggestions that the club was not happy with his performance, and were planning to sack him.*

LAUNCH

launched, launched, launching

launch into

launch into *sth*

to suddenly start talking about something or doing something, especially with a lot of enthusiasm: *He then launched into a blistering attack on his critics. | Her husband was about to launch into a detailed description of his plans for redecorating the house when, fortunately for us, the phone rang.*

launch out

launch out

BrE to start doing something new, especially something that involves a lot of risk: *He left his father's firm and launched out in business on his own.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strike out**

LAVISH

lavished, lavished, lavishing

lavish on/upon

● **Lavish upon** is more formal than **lavish on** and is mostly used in writing.

lavish *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

lavish *sth* **on/upon** *sth*

to give someone or something a lot of praise or attention, spend a lot of money on them, or give them a lot of presents: *When the series was first shown, the media lavished praise on its creator David Lynch. | the royal shopaholic who lavished a fortune on an endless array of new outfits*

* SIMILAR TO: **heap on/upon**

LAY

laid, laid, laying

lay about

lay about *sb*

old-fashioned to attack someone by hitting them violently: *His attackers began laying about him with sticks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay into** *informal*, **set about** *especially literary*

lay aside

1 **lay aside** *sth* **lay** *sth* **aside**

to stop doing something or stop thinking about something, especially so that you are able to do something else: *The two communities will have to lay aside their differences and learn to live in peace with each other. | He had*

L

laid aside his own business commitments in order to help his wife.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

2 **lay aside** *sth* | **lay** *sth* **aside**

to keep something, especially money, and not use it now, so that you can use it in the future: *They had laid aside a small amount of money each month in order to deal with just this type of emergency.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

lay before

lay *sth* **before** *sb/sth*

to give something to a parliament, court, person in authority etc to consider, so that they can make a decision, make a new law, give advice etc: *Legislation was laid before Parliament last spring, banning the sale of handguns.* | *Based on the evidence laid before the court, there was only one possible verdict – guilty.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put before**

lay down

1 **lay down** *sth* | **lay** *sth* **down**

to officially establish a rule or way of doing something, or say officially what someone should do: *The Geneva Convention lays down conditions for the treatment of prisoners of war.* | *The right of every American to bear arms is laid down in the US constitution.*

+ that *The Sex Discrimination Act lays down that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stipulate** *formal*, **set down**

2 **lay down your weapons/arms/guns etc**

to stop fighting, or agree to give up your weapons: *Many of the soldiers had already begun to lay down their arms before the final peace treaty was signed.* | *The terrorists have so far refused to lay down any of their weapons, and can continue their campaign of violence at any time.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **surrender** *formal*

3 **lay down the law**

to tell someone very firmly what they should or should not do, especially in a way that annoys or upsets them: *Her father had started laying down the law about what time she was supposed to come back home.*

4 **lay down** *sth* | **lay** *sth* **down**

to establish something that will develop in the future: *The course aims to lay down the basis for a career in teaching.* | *The foundations of future health are laid down in childhood.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **establish**

5 **lay down** *sth* | **lay** *sth* **down**

technical if you lay down a wine, you store it and keep it for several years, in order to improve its taste: *Maison du Vin has a wide range of fine Bordeaux wines which are suitable for laying down.*

6 **lay down a challenge**

to ask someone if they will try to compete with you or defeat you, or do something very difficult, especially something that no one has been able to do before: *Following the challenge laid down by President Kennedy in the early 60s, the first Americans finally landed on the moon in 1969.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **throw down**

7 **lay down your life**

formal to give up your life in order to help other people, for example in a war to defend your country: *a memorial to the soldiers who laid down their lives in the First World War*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give your life**

8 **lay down** *sth* | **lay** *sth* **down**

formal to give up something, for example your right to something: *Britain has so far been unwilling to lay down its claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give up, abandon, renounce** *formal*

9 **lay down** *sth* | **lay** *sth* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a layer of something such as rock is laid down, it forms gradually and becomes a solid mass: *deposits of limestone which were laid down millions of years ago*

lay for

lay for *sb*

AmE informal old-fashioned to wait for someone so you can attack them: *He threatened to lay for me later if I didn't stop talking to his girlfriend.*

lay in

lay in *sth* | **lay** *sth* **in**

to obtain and store a supply of something so that you can use it in the future: *The villagers have begun laying in supplies of food and firewood for the winter.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get in, stock up, hoard**

lay into

1 **lay into** *sb/sth*

informal to criticize someone or something very strongly, especially in a way that seems unreasonable or unfair: *When I got home my wife started laying into me because I'd forgotten it was our wedding anniversary.* | *Spielberg laid*

into his critics in a recent article in Newsweek magazine.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rip into** *informal*

2 **lay into** *sb*

informal to attack someone and hit or kick them: *Her husband laid into the photographer with his fists and grabbed his camera from him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **attack**

lay off

1 **lay off** *sb* **lay** *sb* **off**

to stop employing a worker because there is not enough work for him or her to do: *Thousands of workers in the auto and steel industries were laid off during the recession of the late 1980s. | The company has recently suffered huge losses and has been forced to lay off some of its employees.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make redundant**

lay-offs N [PLURAL]
when a company stops employing workers because there is not enough work for them to do: *There are expected to be lay-offs at Rover's Longbridge factory because of the fall in demand for new cars.*

2 **lay off** *sth*

to stop doing or having something, especially in order to rest or because it may have a bad effect on your health: *His doctors have told him to lay off the drugs and the all-night partying.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay off**

lay-off N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
a period when you stop doing something: *Shearer returns to football next week after a 3-month lay-off due to injury.*

3 **lay off** *sb*

spoken to stop annoying, upsetting, or hurting someone: *Listen, just lay off, will you? She doesn't need you telling her what to do. | Lay off him, Jonno! He's never done anything to you.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **leave sb alone**

lay on

1 **lay on** *sth*

BrE to provide something, especially food or entertainment, or cars, buses etc in order to take people somewhere: *The organizers had laid on a huge meal for everyone who took part in the race. | Special buses were laid on to take the fans to the airport.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **provide**

2 **lay it on (thick)**

a *informal* to describe or complain about something in a way that makes it seem much worse or more serious than it really is: *Whenever Claire's ill she always lays it on and makes out she's about to die, even if it's only a cold.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **exaggerate**

b *informal* to praise someone too much and talk a lot about how much you admire them, in a way that seems insincere: *He kept saying what a wonderful boss she was, and really laying it on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **exaggerate**

3 **lay** *sth* **on** *sb*

AmE informal to tell someone something that they did not know before and that is unpleasant or annoying: *I hate to lay this on you, but it looks like you owe $400 in taxes this year.*

4 **lay** *sth* **on** *sb*

to give someone something such as a responsibility, job, or problem that is difficult to deal with: *I'm sorry to lay this on you, but we need someone to give a talk in Italy next week.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **saddle with, lumber with**

lay on/upon

● **Lay upon** is more formal than **lay on** and is mostly used in writing.

lay stress/emphasis on/upon *sth*

to say or consider that something is particularly important or necessary: *Great emphasis is laid on trying to help students develop skills that will be useful to them in later life. | The Pope laid emphasis upon the need for a peaceful end to the crisis in Kosovo.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put stress/emphasis on/upon**

lay out

1 **lay out** *sth* **lay** *sth* **out**

to put or arrange something on a surface: *Ashi laid out the clothes she was going to wear that day on the bed. | The plates were already laid out for the evening meal.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put out**

2 **lay out** *sth* **lay** *sth* **out** USUALLY PASSIVE

to arrange or plan the way something is organized – use this especially about a building, town, or garden, or the design of a book, magazine etc: *The palace gardens are laid out in the same style as the ones at Versailles. | The magazine is badly laid out, and it is often difficult to find what you want.*

layout N [C]
the way something is arranged or designed, for example a building, town, garden, or a page in a book, magazine etc: *a change from the traditional newspaper layout | The layout of the office makes it possible for the boss to watch us all while we are working.*

3 **lay out** *sth* **lay** *sth* **out**

to explain your plans or reasons for doing something clearly and in detail, in an official document or speech: *The Director General laid out his plans for the future of the BBC.* | *Israel and Jordan have laid out plans for a peace agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set out, outline**

4 **lay out** *sth* **lay** *sth* **out**

informal to spend money on something, especially a large amount of money: *I've already had to lay out £500 for the course fees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shell out** *informal*, **fork out** *informal*

outlay N [SINGULAR, U]
the amount of money that you have to spend in order to buy something or start doing something: *For a relatively small outlay you can acquire a second home in one of the most beautiful parts of Europe.* | *She wasn't hoping to make a huge profit – she just wanted to get back her initial outlay.*

5 **lay out**

AmE to lie in the sun: *We laid out by the pool all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sunbathe**

6 **lay** *sb* **out**

to hit someone so hard that they become unconscious: *She swung her umbrella at him, and practically laid him out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock out**

7 **lay out** *sth/sb* **lay** *sth/sb* **out**

to prepare a dead body so that it can be buried: *Evita Peron's body was laid out in a glass-topped coffin.*

lay up

1 **be laid up**

informal to have to stay in bed because you are ill or injured: *Both his legs were broken and he was laid up for nine months.*

+ with *Chas isn't coming in to work today – he's laid up in bed with flu.*

2 **be laid up**

if a boat, car, or piece of equipment is laid up, it is stored somewhere while it is not being used: *All the fishing boats were laid up for the winter.* | *The limousine had been laid up during the war and last ran in 1962.*

3 **lay up**

to hide or stay somewhere without doing anything for a period of time: *Captain Warr's men laid up all the following day, expecting to be attacked at any moment.* | *The otters find shelter in the undergrowth by the river and lay up there during the day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide out, hole up**

4 **lay up problems/trouble (for yourself)**

to do something that will cause problems for yourself in the future: *I really think that anyone who goes out with a married man is just laying up trouble for themselves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **store up**

5 **lay up** *sth* **lay** *sth* **up**

to collect and store a supply of something so that you can use it in the future: *The villagers were already laying up firewood for the winter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **store up, stock up, get in**

LAZE

lazed, lazed, lazing

laze around
ALSO **laze about** *BrE*

laze around/about

to spend time relaxing and not doing very much: *We spent the day lazing around on the beach.* | *My eldest son just lazes about at home all day – I don't know what to do with him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax, lounge around, doss about/around** *BrE informal*

LEAD

led, led, leading

lead astray

1 **lead** *sb* **astray** USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone believe something that is not true with the result that they make the wrong choice or decision: *Don't be led astray by promises of free insurance or free drinks in vacation brochures.* | *Officials may have led people astray by telling them that it was safe to eat beef.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mislead**

2 **lead** *sb* **astray**

to encourage someone to do bad things that they would not normally do: *The boy's mother has tried to stop him stealing, but she's convinced it's older boys who lead him astray.*

lead into

lead into *sth*

if one subject, discussion, piece of music etc leads into another, the second one follows naturally from the first because there is a clear connection between them: *A video called 'The Dating Game' was shown, which leads into a class discussion of boy/girl relationships.* | *A slow clarinet melody leads into the finale of this great symphony.*

L

lead off

1 **lead off** | **lead off** *sth*

to begin a discussion or event by saying or doing something: *At the Blue Note Club, jazz pianist John Einweck leads off the evening at 8 p.m.*

+ with *The latest issue of the newsletter leads off with a report on tax bills.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start off, kick off** *informal*

2 **lead off**

BrE if one room, road, path etc leads off another, you can get to the first one directly from the second: *The shop is on Southey Street, a narrow road leading off the High Street.* | *A kitchen area with cooker and fridge leads off the living room.*

3 **lead off** | **lead off** *sth*

AmE to be the first player to try to hit the ball in an inning (=period of play) in the game of basketball: *Roberto Kelly led off the 10th inning with his second home run of the game.*

lead on

1 **lead** *sb* **on**

to deceive someone by telling them things that are not true, especially by making them believe that you love them: *He led her on right until the last minute: the wedding was arranged, all the guests were at the church, and he didn't turn up!*

* SIMILAR TO: **deceive, string along** *informal*

2 **lead** *sb* **on**

to encourage someone to do something that they should not do: *Many young kids start smoking at school, led on by their friends.* | *"Why don't you try? It can't do any harm," she said, leading him on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **egg on, goad on**

lead on to/onto

lead on to/onto *sth*

especially BrE to cause something to develop or make it possible for someone to do something at a later time: *If a young child has problems with language, this may lead on to additional difficulties at school.* | *an advanced course of study that leads onto university* | *I took a job as a secretary in a publishing company, hoping that his would lead onto other things.*

lead to

lead to *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to cause something to happen, especially some time later: *the events which led to the downfall of Margaret Thatcher* | *Air-traffic controllers are worried that these proposals could lead to a major accident.* | *The bank has offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of the robbers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **result in, cause**

lead up to

1 **lead up to** *sth*

if a series of events or days, weeks etc lead up to an important event, they come before it: *a discussion of the events leading up to the Second World War* | *San Francisco will take on a festival atmosphere in the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl.*

the lead-up to sth N [SINGULAR]
BrE the period of time before an important event: *A record number of stores are opening on Sundays in the lead-up to Christmas.*

2 **lead up to** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually introduce a particular subject into a conversation or speech, especially something that may be embarrassing or upsetting: *I could see that he was leading up to a request for more money.* | *He was obviously leading up to something with all that talk about the company's financial problems.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work up to**

LEAF

leafed, leafed, leafing

leaf through

leaf through *sth*

to turn the pages of a book or magazine quickly, looking at what is there without reading it carefully: *He picked up a copy of Life magazine and began to leaf through it while he waited.* | *I leafed through my notebook for Rick Bergen's address.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick through, flip through, thumb through**

LEAK

leaked, leaked, leaking

leak out

leak out

if secret information leaks out, people find out about it and it becomes publicly known: *News of the royal couple's marriage problems began to leak out to the media.* | *Parents were furious when rumours of plans to close the school began to leak out two weeks ago.*

LEAN

lean on

1 **lean on** *sb*

to depend on someone for support and encouragement, especially at a difficult time:

Friendship is important – you need someone you can trust and lean on for support.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **depend on, rely on**

2 **lean on** *sb*

to try to persuade someone to do something by using influence or threats

lean on sb to do sth *A group of senators has been leaning on Republican leaders to cut welfare.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pressurize**

lean towards *especially BrE* lean toward *AmE*

lean towards/toward *sth*

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to tend to support a particular opinion or decision

lean towards/toward doing sth *Yeltsin was leaning towards running for re-election.* | *Their eldest daughter seems to be leaning towards a career in computing.*

LEAP

leaped, leaped, leaping especially AmE
leapt, leapt, leaping especially BrE

leap at

leap at *sth*

to eagerly accept the opportunity to do something: *If I got the opportunity to go to the Wimbledon finals, I'd leap at it.*

leap at the chance/opportunity *When her boss asked if she'd like to go to the Rio conference, she leaped at the chance.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jump at**

leap in

leap in

to suddenly start doing or saying something, especially without thinking carefully: *Alan immediately leapt in and started shouting at everyone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dive in, jump in**

leap on/upon

● **Leap upon** is more formal than **leap on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **leap on/upon** *sb*

to suddenly jump towards someone and attack them violently: *The bigger boys leapt on him as he came out of school.* | *computer games with monsters waiting to leap on you at every corner*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pounce on/upon**

2 **leap on/upon** *sth*

to immediately show a lot of interest in something or eagerly accept a suggestion: *The President admitted he'd lied, and of course the newspapers leaped on the story.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pounce on, seize on/upon**

leap out at

1 **leap out at** *sb*

to suddenly move forward and attack or frighten someone: *She walked quickly down the darkened street, terrified that at any moment someone would leap out at her.*

2 **leap out at** *sb*

if something leaps out at you, you notice it quickly especially because it is important, unusual, or you like it very much: *I looked quickly through some magazines hoping that some interesting ideas would leap out at me.*

+ at *Hazlitt is a superb writer: on page after page sentences leap out at you to be noted and remembered.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jump out at**

LEAVE

left, left, leaving

leave aside

leave aside *sth* **leave** *sth* **aside**

to not consider or talk about a particular subject immediately, so that you can consider something else first: *Let's leave aside the question of cost – which computer would be the best one for us to buy?*

leaving aside sth/leaving sth aside (=not including something) *Leaving aside alcohol and tobacco, prices rose only two percent last year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **ignore, disregard** *formal*

leave behind

1 **leave** *sth/sb* **behind**

to not take something or someone with you when you leave or go to a place, either because you forgot to take them or because you left them there deliberately: *I think I left my credit card behind at the restaurant.* | *Make sure you don't leave anything behind in your hotel room.* | *Environmental campaigners want shoppers to leave their cars behind and use public transport instead.* | *My wife refuses to be left behind when I go on business trips abroad.*

2 **leave behind** *sth* **leave** *sth* **behind you**

to cause a particular situation to exist after leaving a place or position or power: *The hurricane swept through the islands, leaving behind a trail of destruction* | *The previous government left a huge budget deficit behind them.*

3 **leave** *sth* **behind/leave** *sth* **behind you**

to no longer be affected by a situation, attitude, or system, especially one that has prevented you from making progress or being successful: *I felt very bitter after the divorce, but I've left all that behind now.* | *democratic societies trying to leave communism behind them*

4 **leave** *sb/sth* **behind** | **leave behind** *sb/sth*

if you leave behind your family or possessions when you die, they remain after you have died: *Captain Morgan was killed in a tragic accident today. He leaves behind his wife, Anna, and their two sons, Chris and Matthew.* | *The band has recorded 'Free as a Bird', using vocal tracks left behind by the late John Lennon.*

5 **leave** *sb* **behind** | **leave behind** *sb*

to make progress much more quickly than someone else: *The Eastern European countries put on a stunning performance at the games – they left the rest of the world behind.*

be/get left behind *I don't want to miss any of the classes or I'll get left behind.*

6 **leave** *sth* **behind** | **leave behind** *sth*

if a substance is left behind as the result of a process, it remains or is the result of the process after it has finished: *When the liquid is heated, the water evaporates, leaving the salts behind.*

leave off

1 **leave off** *sth* | **leave off**

to stop doing something

leave off doing sth *especially BrE* *He left off kicking the youth and started going through his pockets.*

start/begin etc where sb/sth leaves off (=start from the point where someone stopped before, or start from the point where a story ended before) *Her second novel begins where her first one left off.* | *The computer saves the game so you can start where you left off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop**

2 **leave off!** *spoken informal, especially BrE*

used to tell someone to stop doing something, especially when they are annoying you: *Leave off, Sethe – you're hurting me!*

* SIMILAR TO: **give over!** *BrE informal*, **cut it out!/cut that out!** *spoken informal*

leave out

1 **leave out** *sb/sth* | **leave** *sth/sb* **out**

to not include someone or something, either deliberately or accidentally: *You've left out a zero in this phone number.* | *Right at the end of the exam, I realized I'd left out something important.*

+ of *Fans were shocked that Giggs had been left out of the team.*

* SIMILAR TO: **omit, exclude**

2 **feel left out**

to feel as if you are not accepted or welcome in a group of people: *Everyone seemed to know each other at the club and I felt really left out.*

3 **leave it out!** *BrE spoken informal*

used to tell someone that you do not believe what they have just said: *"I love you, I didn't mean to hurt you." "Oh, leave it out, Mick – I've heard it all before!"*

* SIMILAR TO: **come off it!** *spoken informal*, **knock it off** *informal*

be left over

1 **be left over**

if something such as money or food is left over, you still have some after you have used or eaten as much as you need: *After we've paid the bills there's never any money left over at the end of the month.*

+ from *Dan made a sandwich with some cold chicken left over from lunch.*

leftovers N [PLURAL]
food that has not been eaten at the end of a meal: *Shall I throw away the leftovers, or do you want to use them for something else?*

leftover ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
leftover food is food that has not been eaten at the end of a meal: *Here are some great recipes for ways to use leftover turkey.*

2 **be left over**

if a thing, belief, or habit is left over from the past, it still exists, although the situation that caused it has changed

+ from *Kay was standing near a huge puddle left over from that morning's summer storm.* | *He keeps his hair very short – a habit left over from his days in the army.*

leftover N [C]
something that remains from an earlier time, although the situation that caused it has changed: *The restaurant's name – The Old Mill – is a leftover from the days when flour was produced here.*

leave to

1 **leave** *sb* **to** *sth*

spoken to go away and let someone continue what they are doing, without interrupting them: *I'll leave you to your meal and call again at a more convenient time.*

leave sb to it *The meeting still hadn't finished by 7 o'clock, so we left them to it*

L

and went for a drink. | *"I'll be finished in an hour." "Right. I'll leave you to it – see you later."*

2 **leave** *sth* **to** *sb*

to give something to someone after you die: *She left the house to her son, but all her money went to the Church.*

leave to/leave up to

leave *sth* **to** *sb* | **leave** *sth* **up to** *sb*

spoken to let someone decide and be responsible for something without trying to influence them: *"What colour shall we paint this room?" "I'll leave that up to you," Jasper said.*

leave it (up) to sb (to do sth) *Don't worry about the computer – leave it to me, I'll get it fixed.* | *Most patients will leave it up to the doctor to decide what's best.*

LECH

leched, leched, leching

lech after/over

lech after/over *sb*

BrE informal if a man leches after a woman or a girl he shows that he finds her sexually attractive and desirable in a way that is unpleasant or annoying: *He was one of those middle-aged men who are always leching after young girls.*

LEND

lent, lent, lending

lend out

lend out *sth* | **lend** *sth* **out**

to let someone borrow or use something for a period of time: *Many libraries have CDs that they can lend out, just like books.*

+ to *I wanted to borrow Duncan's guitar, but he's lent it out to someone else.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lend, loan**

lend to

lend itself to *sth*

to be suitable for being used for a particular purpose or being treated in a particular way: *It's an old house, and it doesn't lend itself to a very modern style of decoration.* | *Much of the 2,000-mile border is isolated, lending itself to the smuggling of drugs and illegal immigrants.*

LET

let, let, letting

let down

1 **let** *sb* **down** | **let down** *sb*

to fail to do something that someone is relying on you to do, in a way that is disappointing or annoying: *The builder promised that he'd come today, but he's let me down again.* | *My car never let me down all winter.* | *The education system is letting down our children.*

be let down (by sb) *The working class in this country have always been let down by the politicians who claim to represent them.*

feel let down (by sb) (=when you feel disappointed because someone fails to do something that you are relying on them to do) *I felt really let down when he didn't turn up for our date.*

let the side down *BrE* (=fail to do what the other people in your family, team etc expect you do do) *Martin's sisters all went to university, and he feels he's let the side down by failing to get a place.*

letdown N [SINGULAR]
something that is disappointing because it is not as exciting, interesting, or successful as you expected: *Her wedding night was such a letdown.* | *The Raiders need to win this match; they can't afford any more letdowns this season.*

2 **let down** *sth/sb* | **let** *sth/sb* **down**

to make something or someone less successful than they should be, by not achieving a good enough standard: *It's quite a good film, but the ending lets it down.*

let yourself down *His written work is fine; it's his spoken language that's letting him down.*

3 **let** *sth* **down** | **let down** *sth*

BrE if you let down a tyre, or something else that has air in it, you allow all the air to come out: *When he came back to his bike, some idiot had let his tyres down.* | *If you've finished with the airbed, I'll let it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let the air out of sth, deflate** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **blow up, pump up, inflate** *formal*

4 **let** *sth* **down** | **let down** *sth*

to make a skirt, dress, or pair of trousers longer by cutting the stitches at the bottom, unfolding some of the material, and stitching it again: *Mum, can you let these trousers down? They're too short.*

let in

1 **let** *sb* **in** | **let in** *sb*

to allow someone to enter a room or building, especially by opening the door: *Pauline*

was banging on our door. "Let me in!" she screamed. | *The doorman had a key to the apartment, so he let them in.* | *Try The Tube – a smart new club in the centre of town – but they won't let you in if you're wearing jeans.*

let yourself in *I've got a key, so I can let myself in if you're not home when I arrive.*

* SIMILAR TO: **admit** *formal*

2 **let in** *sth* **let** *sth* **in**

to allow air, light, water etc to enter a place: *Then the door opened, letting in a cold damp gust of wind.* | *I pulled back the curtains to let in as much light as possible*

inlet N [C]
the part of a machine through which liquid or gas can enter: *Check the water inlet to make sure it isn't blocked.*

let in for

let yourself in for *sth*

informal to become involved in something that may be difficult or cause you problems: *Tracy's thrilled that she's pregnant – she doesn't know what she's letting herself in for!* | *Hutton joined the Tigers in June, but he must have wondered what he'd let himself in for when they lost the first three matches.*

let in on

let *sb* **in on** *sth*

to tell someone about a secret, or about something that only a few people know about: *Shall I let you in on a secret? We're getting married next year.* | *Could someone please let me in on the joke – what's so funny?*

* SIMILAR TO: **let into**

let into

1 **let** *sb* **into** *sth*

to allow someone to enter a place: *Immigration officials refused to let him into the country.* | *Youths attacked a sixty-year-old woman after she let them into her house in Jerviston Street yesterday.*

let yourself into sth (=open the door to a room or building with a key and go in) *She only had time to park her car and let herself into her apartment before he arrived.*

* SIMILAR TO: **admit** *formal*

2 **let** *sb* **into a secret**

BrE to tell someone something that is secret or private: *I'll let you into a secret – James is not Kath's real father.* | *Junior officers who were on duty had not been let into the secret of what was going to happen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let in on**

3 **be let into** *sth*

BrE if something is let into a wall or other surface, it is fixed into a space or hole in the surface: *It was a large room under the roof, with a window let into the sloping ceiling.* | *Prisoners were handcuffed to iron rings let into the walls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set into**

let off

1 **let** *sb* **off** **let off** *sb*

to not punish someone when they have done something wrong: *"I'm sorry, I'm late!" "I'll let you off this time."* | *Beaney should have been booked for that foul, but the referee let him off.*

+ with *Kids who are caught stealing are often just let off with a warning.*

let sb off lightly (=give someone a punishment that is less serious than they deserve) *You have been fined for this offence in the past: this time I am not letting you off so lightly.*

2 **let** *sb* **off** *sth* **let** *sb* **off** **let off** *sb*

to allow someone not to do a job that they are supposed to do, or not to pay a debt that they owe: *Will you let me off the washing up tonight? I want to go out early.* | *A spokesman said the government was willing to let the company off its $8 million debt.*

3 **let off** *sth* **let** *sth* **off**

to make something such as a bomb explode, or to fire a gun: *Terrorists let off a massive bomb in the city centre.* | *"Stop right there!" he yelled, and let off a warning shot.* | *What time do they start letting off the fireworks?*

4 **let** *sb* **off**

to stop a car, bus etc to allow someone to get out: *Ask the taxi driver to let you off by the post office.* | *Do you want me to let you off here?*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop off** *informal*, **set down**

5 **let off** *sth* **let** *sth* **off**

BrE to rent part of a building to someone: *The Burtons let off part of the house and lived in the rest.* | *Part of the building is let off as a separate factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rent out, let out** *BrE*

6 **let off** *sth* **let** *sth* **off**

to produce heat, gas, sound etc: *It's only a small radiator, so it doesn't let off much heat.* | *The ship let off a couple of blasts from its siren and slowly began to move away from the dock.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give off, produce** *formal*, **emit** *formal*

7 **let off**

BrE informal to allow air to escape from your bottom, making a rude noise and an unpleasant smell: *Ugh! What a stink! Who's let off?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fart, break wind**

let on

let on USUALLY NEGATIVE

informal if you don't let on about a secret or about your feelings, you do not tell other people about them: *Carol's living with her boyfriend now, but don't let on to Mum, will you? | Perhaps Anna's death upset him more than he let on.*

+ about *Lizzy made Kate promise not to let on about the money.*

let out

1a **let sb out** **let out sb**

to allow someone to leave somewhere: *"Stop the car and let me out," Elly screamed.*

+ of *Hanson was recently let out of prison to spend the weekend with his wife, Brenda. | She still looks very ill – they shouldn't have let her come out of the hospital.*

1b **let sb out** **let out sb**

to open or unlock a door so that someone can leave somewhere: *Haley went downstairs to let the cat out. | The youth was trapped inside the building, and had to ask a passer-by to let him out.*

let yourself out *She crept through the dark silent house and let herself out into the garden.*

2 **let out sth** NOT PASSIVE

literary to make a particular sound: *Eugene let out a long loud laugh when he heard what had happened. | Without thinking, I touched the metal bar. It was so hot I almost let out a scream. | As soon as he had gone, they all let out a deep sigh of relief.*

* SIMILAR TO: **utter** *formal*

3 **let out sth** **let sth out**

to express or get rid of strong feelings, especially when you feel very angry or upset about something: *Sometimes it's good to cry and just let it all out.*

outlet N [C]
a way of expressing or getting rid of strong feelings about something: *Hope described his boxing career as the perfect outlet for his aggression.*

4 **let sth out** **let out sth**

to allow air, water etc to escape or flow out of something: *The kitchen door was open, letting out all the warmth from the room.*

let out a breath (=breathe air out of your lungs) *"Could you take a deep breath," the doctor said, "and then let it out slowly."*

outlet N [C]
a hole or pipe that air or water can flow out of: *For both the bath and the sink, you have to buy the taps and the waste outlet separately.*

5 **let sth out** **let out sth**

to tell people something that was intended to be a secret: *George was the only person who could have let this information out. | I was worried he might let out my secret. | Who let out that it's my birthday today?*

let the cat out of the bag (=tell people something that was intended to be a secret) *Mr Dunn let the cat out of the bag about the government's true intentions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reveal**

6 **let out sth** **let sth out**

BrE to allow someone to rent a house, apartment etc that you own: *We could let out a room to make a bit of extra cash. | The house next door, Number 3, was let out as three flats.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rent out, let**

7 **let sb out of a contract/agreement**

to allow someone not to have to do what they have agreed to do in a contract: *Kaelin was let out of his radio contract in order to pursue film and TV roles.*

let-out N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
BrE something that allows someone to avoid doing something unpleasant or something that they do not want to do: *The insurance company refused to pay anything in the end because of some let-out in the contract.*

8 **let sth out** **let out sth**

to sew up a piece of clothing in a way that makes it wider or looser than before, so that someone can fit into it: *I'll never get into this skirt again unless I can let it out a bit.*

● OPPOSITE: **take in**

let through

let sb/sth through **let through sb/sth**
let sb/sth through sth

to allow someone or something to pass through and get somewhere: *The security guard refused to let me through the gate. | There were thick velvet curtains that didn't let any light through.*

+ to *Reports came in that Jordan was letting shipments through to Iraq.*

let up

1 **let up**

if bad weather or an unpleasant situation lets up, it stops or becomes less serious than before: *I'll drive you into town as soon as the snow lets up. | The economic crisis showed no sign of letting up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ease off/up**

let-up N [SINGULAR, U]
a pause in bad weather or an improvement in an unpleasant situation

L

+ in *Many houses were flooded and still there was no let-up in the rain.*

2 **let up** USUALLY NEGATIVE

to stop doing something or to do it less than before, especially when you have been doing it continuously in a very determined way or in a way that annoys someone: *Little kids ask questions all the time. They won't let up.*

+ in/on *A police spokesman said that they would not let up in their campaign against drugs.* | *When his headaches returned, Fred was advised to let up on his studies.*

let-up N [SINGULAR, U]
when you stop doing something that you have been doing or you do it less than before

+ in *The government wants no let-up in the war against the rebels.*

LEVEL

levelled, levelled, levelling BrE
leveled, leveled, leveling AmE

level at

level *sth* **at** *sb/sth*

to aim a gun at someone or something: *The men pushed us into a dark room and guns were levelled at our heads.*

level at/against

level *sth* **at/against** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

if you level a criticism, charge, or accusation at someone, you publicly criticize them or say that they have done something wrong: *A number of criticisms were levelled at the book.* | *Accusations of racism and corruption have been levelled against the police.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **aim at**

level off/out

1 **level off/out**

if the amount or rate of something levels off, it stops increasing or decreasing and stays at the level it has reached: *Car sales in Japan levelled out in September after several months of growth.*

+ at *The world population could level off at around 8.5 billion by the middle of the next century.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stabilize** *formal*

● COMPARE: **drop off**

2 **level off/out**

if an aircraft levels off, it begins to travel forward at the height it has reached instead of going up or down: *Mark undid his seatbelt as the jet leveled off.*

3 **level off/out**

if a road levels off, it begins to go forward on one level instead of going up or down: *At the top of the hill the road levelled out and we stopped to look at the view.*

4 **level** *sth* **off/out** | **level off/out** *sth*

to make the surface of something flat and smooth: *Put the cake mixture in a tin and level it off with a spoon.* | *You should level out the soil with a rake before sowing the seeds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **flatten**

level with

level with *sb* NOT PASSIVE

informal to tell someone the truth about a situation, when you have not been completely honest about it before: *I decided to level with Charlie. But I made him swear not to tell anyone else.*

LICK

licked, licked, licking

lick up

lick *sth* **up** | **lick up** *sth*

to drink or eat something by moving your tongue across it: *The cat was licking up something that had been spilt on the floor.*

LIE

lay, lain, lying

lie ahead

✦ **lie ahead**

if a particular situation or problem lies ahead, this is what will happen or what someone will experience in the future: *A long hard struggle lies ahead before we can arrive at a diplomatic settlement.*

+ of *I felt very anxious about what lay ahead of me.*

+ for *A great future lies ahead for this talented twenty-three-year-old girl.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lie before sb**

lie around
ALSO **lie about** *BrE*

✦ **1** **be lying around/about (** *sth* **)**

informal if something is lying around, someone has left it carelessly in a place where it should not be: *They'd left the dirty plates lying around and the wine bottles on the floor.* | *Have you seen my watch lying around anywhere?* | *It's not a good idea to leave so much money lying about the house.*

2 **lie around/about**

informal to spend your time being lazy and doing very little, especially lying down: *My fifteen-year-old son just lies around all day, watching videos.* | *If you enjoy drinking, eating and lying about, this could be the holiday for you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **laze around, doss about/around** *BrE informal*

lie back

lie back

to move your body backwards from a sitting position until you are lying down or almost lying down: *I lay back and closed my eyes to listen to the music.*

lie before

lie before *sb* NOT PASSIVE

if something lies before you, you will have to deal with it or you will experience it in the future: *A major challenge lies before us.* | *In the past most women accepted without question the life that lay before them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lie ahead**

lie behind

lie behind *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be the reason or explanation for a situation, action etc, especially when it is not clear or not generally known: *Anna never discussed what lay behind the break-up of her marriage.* | *These statistics are interesting but we need to find out what lies behind them.*

lie down

lie down

to move into a position in which your body is flat, usually in order to sleep or rest: *He felt so tired that he went straight upstairs and lay down on his bed.*

be lying down (=be in a position in which your body is flat on a surface) *Jane was lying down on the floor, doing some exercises.*

lie-down N [SINGULAR]
BrE informal if you have a lie-down, you have a rest on a bed: *You don't look very well. Why don't you go and have a lie-down?*

lie in

1 **lie in**

BrE to stay in bed in the morning later than usual, in order to have a rest: *Don't wake me up tomorrow morning. I'm going to lie in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sleep in**

lie-in N [SINGULAR]
BrE informal if you have a lie-in, you stay in bed in the morning for longer than usual in order to have a rest: *On Sunday mornings we usually have a lie-in.*

2 **lie in** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if a particular quality lies in something, the quality exists in it or as a result of it: *Our company's strength lies in its excellent range of good quality products.* | *The charm of the painting lay in its simplicity.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reside in** *formal*

lie up

lie up

BrE to hide somewhere in order to escape from people who are looking for you: *Our men lay up in the woods during the day, expecting to be attacked at any moment.* | *He had to seek shelter – somewhere to lie up and let his wounds heal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide out**

lie with

lie with *sb* NOT PASSIVE

if something such as a fault, decision, or responsibility lies with someone, it is their fault, decision, responsibility etc, and they are responsible for dealing with it: *The fault lies with the school for not informing the parents that there was a problem.* | *The final decision on the refugees' fate lies with the government.* | *Responsibility for the environment lies with us all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rest with**

LIFT

lifted, lifted, lifting

lift off

lift off

if a space vehicle or plane lifts off, it leaves the ground in order to start a journey: *The space shuttle and its six astronauts will lift off on Sunday at 6.30 am.* | *The plane lifted off and began to climb steeply.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

lift-off N [C,U]
when a space vehicle leaves the ground in order to travel into space: *Ten minutes to lift-off.* | *They decided they would attempt a lift-off, in spite of the bad weather.*

LIGHT

lit, lit, lighting
lighted, lighted, lighting

light on/upon

● **Light upon** is more formal than **light on** and is mostly used in writing.

light on/upon *sth* NOT PASSIVE

literary to suddenly notice or find something,

by chance: *Then my eye lit on that morning's newspaper.* | *Among all the books he lit upon a small volume of poetry.*

light up

1 **light up** *sth* **light** *sth* **up**

to make something bright with light or to shine light on something: *There was a storm that lit up the night sky all over Colorado.* | *In the centre of the town the main streets were all lit up for Christmas.* | *The sun shone on her head, lighting up her hair.*

2 **light up** **light up** *sth* **light** *sth* **up**

if your face or eyes light up, or a smile lights up your face, you suddenly look very pleased, happy, or excited: *Steve's eyes lit up as he described his new project.* | *Suddenly we saw him coming towards us, a smile lighting up his face.*

+ with *Bella's face lit up with pleasure at the thought of a holiday.*

3 **light up** **light up** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

informal to light a cigarette, pipe etc and begin to smoke it: *She took a cigarette from the pack, lit up and offered them around.* | *Watson sat down at a table and lit up his pipe.*

4 **light up**

if something lights up, it begins to shine brightly, because lights inside it start working: *If anybody tries to enter the building at night, the whole place lights up and an alarm goes off.* | *The computer screen lit up and Jonathon typed in a code.*

5 **light up** *sth*

to make a place seem happier or more interesting and attractive: *A smile from Jimmy always seemed to light up the world.* | *Vita was a fascinating woman. Her presence lit up the room.*

light up sb's life (=make someone's life happier and more interesting) *Just the thought of her lit up his life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

light upon

SEE **light on/upon**

LIGHTEN

lightened, lightened, lightening

lighten up

1 **lighten up** *sth* **lighten** *sth* **up** **lighten up**

to make something look lighter or to become lighter: *White walls would certainly lighten up the room.* | *Outside the sky was just beginning to lighten up.*

2 **lighten** *sth* **up** **lighten up** *sth*

to make something less serious and more enjoyable: *The film script was too depressing so we've tried to lighten it up a little.* | *Is the atmosphere at work boring? Here are a few ways in which you can lighten things up.*

3 **lighten up**

spoken informal to behave in a less serious way and be more relaxed and friendly with other people: *Dad's so tense all the time. I wish he'd lighten up a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax, not take things so seriously**

LIKEN

likened, likened, likening

liken to

liken *sth/sb* **to** *sth/sb*

BrE to describe something or someone as similar to another thing or person: *The newspapers likened the new hospital to a five-star hotel.* | *In the Christian religion, God is likened to a father.*

* SIMILAR TO: **compare**

LIMBER

limbered, limbered, limbering

limber up

limber up

especially BrE to do gentle exercises in order to stretch your muscles and prepare your body for a sport or competition

+ for *The athletes were already limbering up for the race.*

* SIMILAR TO: **loosen up**

LINE

lined, lined, lining

line up

1 **line up** **line** *sb* **up** **line up** *sb*

to stand in a line or to make people stand in a line: *The children were ordered to line up according to their height.* | *The rebels had lined the captives up and threatened to shoot them.*

be lined up (=be standing in a line) *Hundreds of people were lined up, all helping to put out the fire.*

line-up N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
a row of people that the police bring together. A member of the public then tries to help the police by looking at the people and deciding whether they have seen any of them before, especially at the scene of a crime: *The victim later identified Thomas from a police line-up.*

L

2 | **line** *sth* **up** | | **line up** *sth* |

to arrange things in a row: *After dinner, we lined our chairs up in front of the television.* | *I stared at the dentist's instruments lined up in front of me.*

3 | **line** *sth/sb* **up** | | **line up** *sth/sb* |

USUALLY PASSIVE

to arrange for something to happen or for someone to take part in an event, programme, competition etc: *The organizers had lined up a team of experts to discuss their views.* | *We have some great comedy acts lined up for you this evening.*

line-up N [C]
the group of people who have been chosen to take part in a particular event, programme, team etc: *The concert featured an all-star line-up of Bowie, Annie Lennox, George Michael and others.* | *There are a few changes to the England line-up for next week's game against Brazil.*

4 | **line up** |

if a lot of people, organizations etc line up to do something, they are all very eager to do it: *She's a brilliant lawyer. People will line up to hire her.* | *People are lining up to buy these new luxury apartments.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **queue up**

5 | **line up** *sth* | | **line** *sth* **up** |

to make something straight or in the right position in relation to something else: *Make sure you have lined up the text on the page, before you print it out.* | *Line the shelves up carefully before fixing them permanently.*

line up against

1 | **line up against** *sb/sth* | NOT PASSIVE

if people line up against someone or something, they all oppose that person or thing: *Democrats quickly lined up against the tax cuts.* | *My brothers were soon involved in the argument too, all of them lined up against me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **oppose**

● OPPOSITE: **line up behind**

2 | **line up against** *sb* |

to compete against someone in a sports competition: *The French team will line up against Brazil in the World Cup Final.*

line up behind/with

| **line up behind/with** *sb* | NOT PASSIVE

if people line up behind someone or something, they all support that person or thing: *The majority lined up behind Leroy and the proposal was passed.* | *Conservatives have usually lined up with big business in commercial disputes.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **support**

● OPPOSITE: **line up against**

LINGER

lingered, lingered, lingering

linger on

1 | **linger on** |

to continue to exist, especially for longer than was expected: *The disease only lingers on in very poor areas.* | *In some places, the old way of life still lingers on.*

the memory lingers on *The war might be over, but the memory lingers on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **remain**

2 | **linger on** | | **linger on** *sth* | NOT PASSIVE

to stay somewhere for a long time or longer than expected: *It was past twelve o'clock, but some of the guests were still lingering on.*

sb's eyes/gaze lingers on sb/sth *literary* (=someone continues to look at someone or something for a long time) *"Is that really true?" he asked, his eyes lingering on her face.*

linger over

| **linger over** *sth* |

to take a long time doing something, usually in order to enjoy it: *There was still one couple in the restaurant, lingering over coffee and cigarettes.*

LINK

linked, linked, linking

link up

1 | **link up** |

to join together, especially with another person or organization in order to do something together

+ with *A few years ago the Rover car company linked up with its rival Honda.* | *The Pet Shop Boys linked up with Liza Minelli and produced one of their best records.* | *The two parties linked up to form the Social Democratic Party, or SDP.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **join up, merge**

link-up N [C]
when two or more companies, organizations etc join together: *Shares in the company rose sharply as news of the link-up got out.*

2 | **link up** *sth/sb* | | **link** *sth/sb* **up** |

to connect two or more places, people, or things: *Millions of people around the world are now linked up by the Internet.* | *The Channel Tunnel linked up Britain and France for the first time.* | *This is part of a huge programme to link up Europe's air traffic control systems.*

+ to *The company's alarm system is linked up to a twenty-four hour security service.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **join up, connect**

link-up N [C]
a connection between two or more computers or electronic systems: *Our hotel has twenty-six bedrooms, each with its own colour TV and video link-up.*

3 **link up**

to meet someone in order to do something or go somewhere with them

+ with *David drove north to link up with his Liverpool team-mates.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **meet up, join up**

LIQUOR

be liquored up

be liquored up

AmE informal to be drunk: *The fans were all liquored up after the game*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, be tanked up** *informal*

LISTEN

listened, listened, listening

listen for

listen for *sth*

to listen carefully so that you will hear a sound that you are expecting or hoping to hear: *I lay awake for a while, listening for the sound of his steps on the stairs. | Marcus picked up the phone and listened for the dialling tone.*

listen in

1 **listen in**

to secretly listen to someone's private conversation, especially on the telephone: *Peter had picked up the other phone and was listening in when I got the news.*

+ on *As children, we used to creep downstairs and listen in on what the adults were saying.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eavesdrop**

2 **listen in**

to listen to a radio programme, especially one involving conversation

+ to *I often listen in to the 'Today' programme on my way into work.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **listen**

listen out for

listen out for *sth*

to listen carefully in order to hear something that you are expecting or hoping to hear: *She lay in bed listening out for the sound of his feet on the stairs. | Farmers are being urged to listen out for flood warnings.*

LITTER

be littered with

1 **be littered with** *sth*

to be covered with a lot of something in an untidy way: *The ground was littered with corpses. | The cracked tiles beneath his feet were littered with cigarette butts.*

2 **be littered with** *sth*

to contain a lot of something, especially mistakes or examples of something bad that has happened: *Even at university, students' essays are often littered with spelling mistakes. | The history of the game is littered with cases of players who wasted their talents.*

LIVE

lived, lived, living

live by

live by *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to follow carefully particular rules or beliefs that guide or affect your behaviour: *Clare lives by the philosophy that you can do anything if you are determined enough. | He refuses to live by anyone else's rules.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **abide by** *formal*

live down

live *sth* **down** **live down** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if you say that someone will not live something down, you mean that they will never make people forget about something silly or embarrassing that they have done: *I don't think he'll ever live this down! | The next morning I woke up and remembered what I'd done. How could I ever live it down?*

live for

live for *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

if you live for something or someone, they are so important to you that you feel they are your main reason for living: *All through the football season, I lived for Saturdays. | He seemed to be one of those boring old professors who live for their work.*

have something/everything/nothing to live for (=have something etc that makes life seem good and worth living) *At last Ben got engaged to a girl called Jane. This gave him something to live for. | Nobody could understand why she had killed herself. She had had everything to live for.*

live in

1 **live in**

if someone who is employed in a house or school lives in, they live at the place where they work: *Does your nanny live in?*

live-in ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
a live-in servant lives at the place where they work: *a live-in maid*

2 **live in**

especially BrE if students live in, they live in one of the buildings that belong to the university, college etc: *Most of the students live in during their first year.*

live off

1 **live off** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to get money from something and use it in order to live: *Burley stopped working when he was sixty and spent the rest of his life living off his investments.*

live off the land (=live by growing and catching your own food) *Most of the people on the island live off the land.*

2 **live off** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to get the money that you need to live from someone else, especially when you do not do any work yourself: *She can't go on living off her parents forever.* | *Students were just lazy good-for-nothings, who lived off the taxpayers' money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sponge off**

3 **live off** *sth*

to only eat a particular kind of food: *Many teenagers tend to live off hamburgers and fries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **live on**

live on

1 **live on** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if you live on a particular amount of money, you have that amount of money available to buy the things you need to live: *At that time we were living on $50 a week.*

not have/make enough to live on (=not have or earn enough money to buy the things you need) *A lot of artists can't make enough to live on.*

2 **live on** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to only eat a particular kind of food: *Most of the population live on a diet of rice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **live off**

3 **live on**

to continue to exist or live, especially for a long time or for longer than expected: *Great music lives on – long after the composer is dead.* | *Many of the old traditions still live on.* | *A growing number of people live on into their eighties or nineties.*

live out

1 **live out your life/days/years**

to live for the rest of your life in a particular place or situation

+ in *Edward Lear lived out his life in Italy, a sick and lonely old man.* | *Too many old people live out their years in poverty.*

2 **live out** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to do or experience something that you have always wanted to do or imagined yourself doing: *The money they won made it possible for them to live out their dreams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fulfil, realize** *formal*

3 **live out**

BrE if a student or a person who is employed in a house or school lives out, they do not live in the place where they study or work: *A lot of second-year students decide to live out and share a house.*

live through

live through *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to experience a very difficult situation or event, often one that continues for a long time: *My grandfather lived through two World Wars.* | *We've lived through some very hard times together.*

* SIMILAR TO: **endure** *formal*

live together

live together

if two people live together, they share a house and have a sexual relationship, but they are not married: *Mary and Alec had already lived together for several years before they decided to get married.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cohabit** *formal*

live up

live it up

to spend time doing exciting and enjoyable things, especially things that cost a lot of money: *My brother always liked living it up at expensive hotels and night clubs.* | *Hank looked at his wife. "Honey," he said, "it's time you started to live it up a bit."*

live up to

live up to *sth*

to be as good as people expect or hope: *Patissier lived up to her reputation, and easily won the women's event.* | *A lot of holiday resorts claim that you'll have a wonderful*

time – but I've found one that really lives up to its promises.

live up to expectations *The result of the negotiations did not live up to expectations.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **match up to**

live with

1 **live with** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to share a house and have a sexual relationship with someone, without being married: *Frank had asked her to come and live with him, but she wasn't sure.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shack up with sb** *informal*

2 **live with** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to accept something unpleasant as part of your life, because there is nothing you can do to change it or get rid of it: *There was no treatment for the disease, and so Rebecca learnt to live with it. | I don't think I can live with these constant arguments.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put up with, tolerate**

LIVEN

livened, livened, livening

liven up

1a **liven up** *sth* | **liven** *sth* **up**

to make something become more interesting or exciting: *You could always liven up the room with some colourful curtains and cushions. | Miller was great to have at parties. He quickly livened things up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

1b **liven up**

to become more interesting and exciting: *The game didn't liven up until midway through the second half.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come alive**

2a **liven** *sb* **up** | **liven up** *sb*

to make someone more cheerful and full of energy: *He could do with a couple of drinks to liven him up!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **brighten up, cheer up**

2b **liven up**

to become more cheerful and full of energy: *When people started arriving, he seemed to liven up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **brighten up, cheer up**

LOAD

loaded, loaded, loading

load down

1 **be loaded down with** *sth*

to be carrying or holding a lot of things or people: *We were all loaded down with luggage, so we took a taxi to the airport. | A truck, loaded down with refugees, was fleeing from the fighting. | The table was loaded down with jellies and ice cream.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **weigh down**

2 **load** *sb* **down** | **load down** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to give someone a lot of work, duties etc, especially more than they can deal with

+ with *Everyone in the department is loaded down with work at the moment.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **weigh down, be snowed under**

load up

1 **load up** *sth* | **load** *sth* **up** | **load up**

to put a lot of things into a vehicle or onto an animal before you start a journey: *Dad loaded up the car the night before we left, so that we could leave early the next day.*

+ with *Apparently the plane was loaded up with £25,000 worth of marijuana, and then flown to South Florida. | Everyone on the expedition had to load up with enough food and water for two weeks.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pack**

2 **load up** *sth* | **load** *sth* **up** | **load up**

BrE if a computer loads up a program, it goes through the processes that are necessary for you to use it: *He read through his faxes while waiting for his computer to load up the programme. | This computer's very slow. It takes almost five minutes to load up.*

load up on ALSO load up with *AmE*

load up on/with *sth*

to get or buy a lot of something that you need or want: *Mum's always going to the store to load up with health foods. | We'll need to load up on alcohol well before Christmas.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stock up**

LOAF

loafed, loafed, loafing

loaf around ALSO loaf about *BrE*

loaf around/about (*sth* **)**

informal to spend your time being lazy or doing nothing, often because you cannot find anything to do: *Gary could only find a part-time job. The rest of the time he just loafed around. | If young people had more to occupy them, they wouldn't spend so much time loafing about the streets.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hang around, laze around, hang about** *BrE*

L

LOAN
loaned, loaned, loaning

loan out

loan *sth/sb* **out** | **loan out** *sth/sb*

to lend something or someone to another person, organization etc for a period of time: *Some of the paintings were loaned out to the museum by private collectors.* | *West Ham's manager was not prepared to loan out any of his players.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lend**

LOCK
locked, locked, locking

lock away

1 **lock** *sth* **away** | **lock away** *sth*

to put something in a safe place and lock the door, so that no one else can get or take it: *The police are advising people to lock their cars away at night.* | *Barry knew that the bottles of white pills were locked away in the school secretary's cupboard.*

● COMPARE: **lock up**

2 **lock** *sb* **away** | **lock away** *sb*

to put someone in prison or in a hospital for people who are mentally ill: *"You're a thief, Devlin," said Pearce. "And it's my job to catch thieves and lock them away."* | *That brother of yours, he's crazy. He should be locked away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lock up, put away** *informal*

3 **lock yourself away**

to go somewhere in order to be quiet or get away from other people: *The singer has now locked herself away in her Florida home and is refusing to speak to the press.* | *He used to lock himself away in the garden shed in order to do his writing.*

be locked away *She's been locked away in her office all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut away, hide away**

4 **lock** *sth* **away** | **lock away** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to keep information, feelings etc secret or hidden from people: *I was happy to keep the events of that night locked away in my head.* | *Liddy seemed really depressed, as if all her emotions were locked away inside her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suppress** *formal*

L

lock in

lock *sb* **in** | **lock in** *sb*

to prevent someone from leaving a room or building by locking the door: *The guard locked him in, then sat down outside the door.*

be locked in (=be unable to get out of a room or building because you cannot open the door) *Help! I'm locked in!*

be locked in/into

be locked in/into *sth*

to be involved in an argument, fight etc with someone, especially one that it is difficult to get out of: *The couple, now divorced, are locked in a long battle over their children.*

get/become locked into sth *Neither side wants to get locked into a long civil war.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be embroiled in** *formal*

lock in on
ALSO **lock onto**

lock in on *sth* | **lock onto** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if a missile locks in on the object it is aimed at, it finds its position and moves straight towards it in order to destroy it. A missile is an explosive weapon which is fired through the air: *Unfortunately the missile had already locked in on its target, and there was nothing the pilot could do to stop it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **home in on**

lock out

1 **lock** *sb* **out** | **lock out** *sb*

to deliberately prevent someone from entering a place, especially their own home, by locking the door: *The court heard that Simms had beaten his wife and locked her out.*

2 **lock yourself out**

to leave your keys inside a building, room, car etc by mistake, with the result that you cannot get back inside it after the door has shut: *Oh no! I've locked myself out of my room!* | *We always leave a spare key with our neighbours now, in case we lock ourselves out.*

3 **lock** *sb* **out** | **lock out** *sb*

if the employers at a place of work lock out the workers, they prevent the workers from coming in until the workers agree to what the employers want: *The banks locked out employees on February 1st for refusing to handle inter-bank payments.*

lockout N [C]
when employers prevent workers from coming to work until the workers agree to what the employers want: *When the miners went on strike, management responded with a lockout.*

lock up

1 **lock** *sth* **up** | **lock up** *sth* | **lock up**

to lock all the doors and windows of a building or a car so that no one can get in: *When we arrived, the house was all locked up and there*

was no sign of anyone. | Did you remember to turn off the lights and lock up?

lock-up N [C]
BrE a garage that someone rents and that can be locked safely, often one that is used for storing things: *Underhill stopped in front of a lock-up on Dale Street, opened the door and carried the boxes inside. | a lock-up garage*

2 **lock** *sb* **up** | **lock up** *sb*

to put or keep someone in prison, or in a hospital for people who are mentally ill: *The governor argued that tougher laws and locking up criminals had helped to lower the crime rate. | Mansell's wife described her husband as a sick man. "He should be locked up," she said.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lock away, put away** *informal*

lockup N [C]
a prison, especially a small one, or a room in a prison: *On Friday night there were already five guys inside the lockup at the police station.*

3 **lock** *sth* **up** | **lock up** *sth*

to put something in a safe place and lock the door: *The silver knives and forks were always locked up when they weren't in use.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lock away**

4 **be locked up**

if your money is locked up, you have put it into a financial plan or a business in order to make more money, and you cannot take it out and use it for a specific period of time

+ in *If your money is locked up in an investment plan while interest rates are low, it could be the wrong choice.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be tied up**

LOG
logged, logged, logging

log in/on/into/onto

log in/on | **log into/onto** *sth*

to do the things that are necessary to start using a computer system, for example by typing in particular words: *Someone else had logged in under my name and used my password. | When I logged onto my computer I found dozens of e-mails waiting for me.*

log onto the Internet *These days children can log onto the Internet and find out information about anything they want.*

● OPPOSITE: **log off, log out**

log-in, log-on N [C]
the name or special word needed to start using a computer system, or the action of starting to use a computer system by typing a name or special word: *Normally the person's log-in is not known to anyone else except for the network administrator. | The system records all log-on attempts in a special file.*

log off/out

log off | **log out** | **log off** *sth*

to finish using a computer system by typing in a special word or instruction: *Make sure you save your work on a back-up disc before you log off. | I logged out and switched off my machine.*

● OPPOSITE: **log in/on/into/onto**

LOLL
lolled, lolled, lolling

loll about/around

loll around/about | **loll around/about** *sth*

BrE to sit or lie somewhere in a very lazy or relaxed way, doing very little, especially when you should be doing something else: *Her husband spends the evenings lolling around on the sofa watching television, whilst she does all the housework.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **loaf around, laze around**

LONG
longed, longed, longing

long for

long for *sth*

to want something or someone very much, especially when it seems unlikely that you will get what you want or when you have been waiting for a long time: *After 20 years of marriage she was longing for a little more excitement in her life. | The king and queen had always longed for a child.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hanker after/for, yearn for**

LOOK
looked, looked, looking

look after

1 **look after** *sb*

to spend time with someone and make sure that they are safe and have the things they need, especially a child or someone who is sick: *Her husband looks after the children while she's at work. | More and more people started bringing me injured birds to look after. | The doctors there are very good, and I'm sure you'll be well looked after.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take care of**

2 **look after** *sth*

to keep something in good condition or make sure that something does not get broken,

damaged, or stolen, especially something that belongs to someone else: *Who is responsible for looking after the college gardens? | The neighbours are looking after the house for us while we're away. | Can you look after my bags while I go up to the bar?*

* SIMILAR TO: **take care of**

3 **look after** *sth*

to be responsible for dealing with something over a period of time: *Hugh looks after the financial side of the business. | Her eldest son was appointed to look after her affairs after her death.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take care of**

4 **look after yourself**

spoken used when you are saying goodbye to someone in a friendly way: *"See you, Tony." "Yeah, you look after yourself!"*

* SIMILAR TO: **take care**

5 **be able to look after yourself**

to not need anyone else to keep you safe or to help you: *Don't worry about Joanna – she's perfectly able to look after herself.*

look ahead

look ahead

to think about what will happen in the future so that you can make plans or talk about what is likely to happen: *Looking ahead to the 21st century, do you think the US will be able to keep its position as the dominant world superpower? | It's important to look ahead and make sufficient provision financially for your retirement.*

look ahead N [SINGULAR]
if you have a look ahead, you think or talk about what will happen in the future: *And finally, a quick look ahead to what's on Channel 4 this weekend.*

look around ALSO look round *BrE*

1 **look around/round**

look around/round *sth*

to walk around a place looking at the various things there: *They spent the morning looking around the old part of the city. | Welcome to your new home! Would you like to look around while I make some coffee?*

look around ALSO **look round** *BrE* N [SINGULAR]
Do you mind if I have a quick look around, just to make sure that everything's OK?

2 **look around/round**

to try to find something by looking in different places, asking people etc: *She spent several months looking around, trying to find a better job.*

+ for *Tom began to look around for a place to live.*

look around ALSO **look round** *BrE* N [SINGULAR]
if you have a look around, you try to find something by looking in different places, asking people etc, usually for a short period of time: *They had a look around at the back of the house, but there was no sign of any cat to be seen.*

look at

1 **look at** *sth*

to examine something carefully, especially to find out what is wrong with it or to find out more about it – use this especially about a doctor, engineer, or other trained person examining something: *He took the car to his nearest garage so that a mechanic could look at it. | Scientists are looking at the genetic structure of certain types of worm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **examine**

2 **look at** *sth*

to study and consider something, especially in order to decide what to do about it: *The company is currently looking at ways in which it can improve its image. | A national advisory group has been appointed to look at the question of prison reform.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look into, examine, investigate**

3 **look at** *sth*

to read something, especially quickly and not very carefully: *Have you had time to look at your e-mail this morning? | Marjorie asked him to look at the report for her before she sent it out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **read/look through, look over**

4 **look at** *sth*

to consider something in a particular way: *You'll look at things differently when you get to my age. | Studying oriental medicine has changed the way that these western doctors look at healing. | The way I look at it, I might be poor, but at least I'm doing what I want to do.*

5 **look at** *sb/sth*

spoken used when you are mentioning someone or something as an example to prove what you have just said: *You don't have to be young to be a popstar. Look at Cliff Richard.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take sb/sth for example**

6 **not look at** *sb/sth*

especially spoken to not want to accept an offer because it is much too low, or not be interested in someone or something because they are not the right type: *"How much do you think they want for the house?" "I don't think they'll look at anything under $200,000."*

L

not look twice at sb/sth *especially spoken* (=not be even slightly interested in something or someone) *I'm old enough to be her father. She wouldn't look twice at me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **consider**

look away

look away

to turn your eyes away from someone or something so that you cannot see them: *When the old man asked her for money she just looked away and ignored him.* | *It was a gruesome sight and Theresa looked away.*

+ from *Shirley looked away from the road in front of her for a second, and the next thing she knew she was in the hospital.*

look back

1 **look back**

to think about or remember a situation that happened in the past: *Looking back, I wish I hadn't said some of those things. I must have seemed incredibly rude.*

+ on *Whenever Ellen looked back on her childhood in Wales, she was filled with happy memories.*

+ to *In his latest novel, he looks back to the early 1970s.*

2 *sb* **hasn't looked back (since)**

used to say that someone has continued to be successful since a particular time: *He won his first Wimbledon title when he was only 20, and hasn't looked back since.*

look down on

1 **look down on** *sb*

to think you are better than someone else, for example because you are more successful, or of a higher social class than they are: *People tend to look down on housewives these days and think they should have careers.* | *Adam always felt that we looked down on him because he hadn't been to university.*

2 **look down on** *sth*

to think that something is not very good because it is of poor quality, or has nothing interesting in it. Use this when you disagree with people who think in this way: *Some people look down on Marlow, but it's actually quite a nice place to live.* | *Romantic novels are generally looked down on by serious literary scholars.*

look for

1 **look for** *sb/sth*

to try to find someone or something, for example because you need them or have lost them: *He said he was looking for a place to stay for a few weeks.* | *Karen went back to look for her husband, but he was nowhere to be seen.* | *Scientists believe they have finally found the answer they've been looking for.*

the police are looking for sb (=they are trying to find someone who may have been involved in a crime) *The police are looking for a man in his early twenties, who was seen running away from the scene of the crime.*

2 **be looking for** *sb*

be trying to find a particular kind of person for a job: *I'm sorry, but we're looking for someone with more experience.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **search for, seek** *formal*

look forward to

look forward to *sth*

to be excited and happy about something good that is going to happen and think about it a lot

look forward to doing sth *I'm really looking forward to seeing my family again.*

look forward to sth *It had been a long day, and he was looking forward to a nice hot shower when he got home.* | *old people with nothing much left to look forward to in their lives*

look in

look in

especially spoken to visit someone for a short time, usually when you are going somewhere else, especially to find out if they are all right

+ on *I thought I'd look in on Michael on my way home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop in** *formal*, **call in** *BrE*

look into

1 **look into** *sth*

to try to find out the facts about something such as a crime, a problem, or an accident, so that it can be dealt with: *Police authorities say they will look into the matter.* | *A special committee was appointed to look into allegations of public corruption following the Watergate affair.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **investigate**

2 **look into** *sth*

to find out more about something by getting all the necessary information: *It sounds like an interesting idea for a holiday – I'll definitely look into it.*

look on

SEE ALSO **look on/upon**

look on

to watch something while it is happening but not take part in it or try to stop it: *Reporters looked on in horror as the man was dragged away and beaten to death.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **watch**

onlooker N [C]
someone who watches something while it happens, without being involved in it: *A crowd of curious onlookers had gathered around the building where the hostages were being held.*

look on/upon

● **Look upon** is more formal than **look on** and is mostly used in writing.

look on/upon *sb/sth*

to consider someone or something in a particular way, or as a particular kind of person or thing

+ as *We've always looked on Jack as one of the family.* | *Instead of being pleased, he appeared to look on the offer as an insult.*

+ with *There are places where a video camera is looked upon with great suspicion.*

look kindly/favourably on sb/sth (=have a good opinion of someone or something and want to support them) *Congress is expected to look favourably on the plan.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **consider**

look out

1 **look out!**

spoken use this to warn someone that they are in danger and that they must do something to avoid it: *Look out! There's a train coming!* | *"Look out!" yelled Willie. "He's got a gun!"*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **watch out**

lookout N [C]
someone whose duty is to watch carefully to see if anyone comes or for other signs of danger: *One of the lookouts saw a column of tanks approaching in the distance.*

lookout N [C]
a high place where people can watch to see if anyone is coming or for other signs of danger: *a mountain lookout*

L

2 **look out** *sth* **look** *sth* **out**

BrE spoken to try to find something that is stored away somewhere, especially in order to show it to someone: *I've got a photograph of them somewhere. I can look it out if you're interested.*

look out for

1 **look out for** *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

to look carefully and pay close attention in order to try to see someone or something: *We kept looking out for him, but there was no sign at all.* | *If you're visiting the Toshogu Shrine in Nikko, look out for the carving of the Sleeping Cat.*

be on the lookout for sb/sth
to watch a place or situation continuously in order to find something you want or to be ready for problems or opportunities: *Police were on the lookout for anyone behaving suspiciously.* | *We're always on the lookout for new business opportunities.*

2 **look out for** *sb*

to do what is best for someone, protect them, and make sure that they have as many advantages as possible: *We were a close group of friends, and we all looked out for each other.*

look out for yourself *No one else is going to help you get to the top. You have to look out for yourself.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look after**

look over

look *sth* **over** **look over** *sth*

to quickly examine someone or something, to see if there is anything wrong with them or to see what they are like: *Jarrell held the gun up to his eyes and looked it over carefully.* | *The girl looked him over coldly and laughed. "A writer! That's the funniest thing I've heard all week."*

look round *BrE*

SEE **look around**

look through

1 **look through** *sth*

to look for something among a pile of paper, in a drawer, in someone's pockets etc: *FBI agents are looking through her apartment for fingerprints.* | *Patrick and I carefully looked through Bob's drawer to see if there was anything to show where he could have gone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go through**

2 **look through** *sth*

to read something quickly and not very carefully: *Can you look through the report and tell me what you think of it?* | *Mr Firtchel looked through his diary and announced that he would be busy until the New Year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look at**

3 **look through** *sb*

to look at someone and seem not to notice

them or pretend not to recognize them, because you are thinking about other things or because you are angry with them

look straight/right through sb *I waved to her in the street, but she just looked straight through me.*

look to

1 **look to** *sb/sth*

to depend on someone or something to provide you with help, advice etc, or hope that they will do this

+ for *People are already looking to the Internet for all of their shopping needs.* | *European artists like Gaugin and Cezanne looked to the East for their inspiration.*

look to sb to do sth *Arab states looked to Russia to support them against the United States.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon, rely on/upon, turn to**

2 **look to** *sth*

to pay attention to something so that it affects the way you behave or what you decide to do: *We need to stop thinking about the past and start looking to the future.* | *Companies tend only to look to short term profits.* | *American military planners should look to the lessons that were learned in Vietnam.*

look up

1 **look up** *sth* **look** *sth* **up**

to try to find information about something in a book, in a list, in computer records etc: *If you don't know what the word means, look it up in a dictionary.* | *She looked up his number in the phonebook.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consult** *formal*

2 **look** *sb* **up** **look up** *sb*

to visit someone, especially someone that you have not seen for a long time, when you are visiting the area where they live: *If you're ever in Atlanta, look me up.* | *He thought he'd stay on a few more days and try to look up a few old friends.*

3 **look up** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a situation is looking up, it is improving and you are starting to feel more hopeful about the future: *In Cuba the economy is looking up.*

things are looking up (=the situation is improving) *They had a lot of problems last year, but now things are looking up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **improve, get better**

look upon

SEE **look on**

look up to

look up to *sb*

to admire or respect someone a lot, for example because they are older than you and have a lot of experience or knowledge: *The player I used to look up to when I was younger was John McEnroe.* | *"You know I've always looked up to you as my father-figure," she said.*

LOOM

loomed, loomed, looming

loom ahead

loom ahead

if an unpleasant or worrying situation looms ahead, it is going to happen soon and people are worried or frightened: *With economic difficulties looming ahead, people are cutting down on their spending and keeping their money in the bank.*

loom up

loom up

if something looms up, it suddenly appears as a large unclear shape as you come close to it: *The city's skyscrapers loom up out of the mist.* | *A huge truck loomed up in front of them.*

LOOSE

loosed, loosed, loosing

loose off

loose off *sth* **loose** *sth* **off**

BrE to fire bullets, bombs etc: *The soldiers loosed off a few rounds of ammunition over the heads of the crowd.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fire**

loose on/upon

loose *sth* **on** *sb/sth*

loose *sth* **upon** *sb/sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

literary to allow something very dangerous to harm people or destroy something: *Although no one realised it at the time, a deadly disease had been loosed on the public.* | *The power of the bomb was loosed on Nagasaki on August 9th.*

* SIMILAR TO: **unleash**

LOOSEN

loosened, loosened, loosening

loosen up

1 **loosen up**

to become more relaxed and stop being serious, worried, or nervous when you are with

other people: *After a couple of drinks she began to loosen up a little.* | *"Come on honey, loosen up!" his wife said to him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax**

2 **loosen up** *sth* | **loosen** *sth* **up**

loosen up

to make your muscles more relaxed, usually by doing exercises, for example before playing a sport: *The players were loosening up before the game*

* SIMILAR TO: **limber up** *especially BrE*

LOP

lopped, lopped, lopping

lop off

1 **lop off** *sth* | **lop** *sth* **off**

to quickly cut off a part of something such as a branch of a tree or a part of someone's body by hitting it hard with a sharp tool: *He picked up the axe and began lopping off branches from a nearby tree for firewood.* | *Thieves are liable to have their hands lopped off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop off**

2 **lop off** *sth* | **lop** *sth* **off**

to reduce something by a particular amount, especially a large amount – used especially in newspaper and television reports: *$10 billion has been lopped off the defense budget.*

LORD

lorded, lorded, lording

lord over

lord it over *sb*

it someone lords it over you they behave in a way that shows they think they are much more important than you and they keep telling you what to do in a way that is very annoying and unreasonable: *She seemed to enjoy lording it over the other members of her team.*

LOSE

lost, lost, losing

lose in

1 **be lost in** *sth*

to be thinking about something so much that you do not pay attention to what is happening around you: *Kerry was sitting in her armchair, lost in a book.* | *a dreamy child who was lost in his own little world*

lost in thought *I walked slowly back to my office, lost in thought.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be absorbed in sth, be engrossed in sth**

2 **lose yourself in** *sth*

to become so involved in what you are doing that you do not think about anything else: *When Warren left her, she tried to lose herself in her work.*

lose out

lose out

to not get an advantage that someone else has, or that someone else succeeds in getting instead of you: *Single people could lose out financially under the new tax system.*

lose out to sb (=another person, organization etc succeeds in getting something instead of you) *US firms are losing out to foreign competitors, due to the high value of the dollar compared to other currencies.*

+ on *Shell has lost out on an oil bonanza worth at least $1 billion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **miss out**

LOUNGE

lounged, lounged, lounging

lounge around ALSO lounge about *especially BrE*

lounge around/about

lounge around/about *sth*

to spend time doing very little in a relaxed and lazy way, usually lying or sitting down: *They spent most of the first week lounging around the hotel pool.*

* SIMILAR TO: **laze around, doss about/around** *BrE informal*

LOUSE

loused, loused, lousing

louse up

louse *sth* **up** | **louse up** *sth*

informal to do something very badly, especially by making a lot of careless mistakes: *Don't give the job to Ted – he'll only louse it up.* | *"How did you do in your test?" "I really loused it up."*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **cock up** *BrE informal*

LOVE

be loved up

be loved up

informal to feel very friendly to other people, especially because you have taken drugs: *It was great at the festival. Everyone was really loved up, including Mick.*

L

LUCK

lucked, lucked, lucking

luck into

luck into | *sth*

AmE to get something you want without expecting to get it: *Reed lucked into a simple TV role that led to his successful acting career.*

luck out

luck out

AmE informal to be very lucky: *"I lucked out," said Eric Reinholm, whose house wasn't damaged in the fire.*

LULL

lulled, lulled, lulling

lull into

lull | *sb* | **into** | *sth*

to deceive someone and make them feel safe or confident, so that they are completely surprised when you attack them or when something bad happens to them

lull sb into a false sense of security *United lulled their opponents into a false sense of security, and then scored three goals in the last 15 minutes.*

lull sb into doing sth *The police managed to lull Newall into believing that no one knew about his activities.*

lull sb into sth *Japanese companies, lulled into a mood of complacency by Japan's economic miracle, are delaying cost-cutting and becoming increasingly inefficient.*

LUMBER

lumbered, lumbered, lumbering

lumber with

be lumbered with | *sth/sb*

BrE informal if you are lumbered with something or someone, you have to deal with them or accept them, even though you do not want to because they are difficult, annoying, expensive etc: *I'm sorry you got lumbered with the bill.* | *She's probably the most boring person I've ever met – I don't like the idea of being lumbered with her all evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be saddled with sth**

LUMP

lumped, lumped, lumping

lump together

lump | *sb/sth* | **together**

to consider two or more different people or things as a single type or group, and not treat them separately – used especially when you think that it is wrong to do this: *They were all lumped together as troublemakers and kept under close watch by the police.* | *A great many plants are lumped together under the label of herbs.*

LUNGE

lunged, lunged, lunging

lunge at

lunge at | *sb/sth*

to suddenly jump towards a person or animal in order to attack them: *The man lunged at her with a knife.* | *Flashman lunged at the photographer, grabbed his camera, and smashed it on the ground.*

LUST

lusted, lusted, lusting

lust after

1 **lust after** | *sb*

to feel very attracted to someone and want to have sex with them very much – often used humorously: *Apparently Jane had been secretly lusting after Michael for years.*

2 **lust after** | *sth*

informal to want something very much, especially something that is very expensive or difficult to get – often used humorously: *A lot of guys spend their lives lusting after Porsches and Jaguars.*

LUXURIATE

luxuriated, luxuriated, luxuriating

luxuriate in

luxuriate in | *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to spend time enjoying something very much and getting a lot of pleasure from it: *She imagined herself luxuriating in a nice hot bath.* | *We spent the evenings lying on the deck and luxuriating in the cool breezes wafting off the Nile.*

M

MAGIC

magicked, magicked, magicking

magic away

magic *sth* **away** | **magic away** *sth*

BrE to make something disappear quickly and without any effort: *The new government was facing a serious political problem which couldn't be magicked away.*

magic up

magic *sth* **up** | **magic up** *sth*

to make something appear quickly and without any effort: *The program can magic up facts on any subject within a couple of minutes.*

MAJOR

majored, majored, majoring

major in

major in *sth*

AmE to study something as your main subject at a college or university: *She decided to major in biology.*

● COMPARE: **minor in**

MAKE

made, made, making

make after

make after *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

BrE to chase someone or something: *Hencke made after the man, but all he could see was his back in the distance.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chase**

make away with

1 **make away with** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

BrE informal to steal something and escape with it: *Thieves made away with thousands of dollars worth of jewellery.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make off with**

2 **make away with** *sb*

BrE old-fashioned to kill someone, especially after deciding to do it and planning it secretly: *Mrs Jonathan now realized that she would never get a divorce. So she decided to make away with him instead.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **kill, do away with** *informal*

make for

1 **make for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to move towards something: *At last the film finished and we got up and made for the exit.* | *The two pilots made for Barber's Point and awaited instructions for take-off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **head for**

2 **be made for each other**

if two people are made for each other, they each seem to be the perfect person for the other to have a happy relationship with: *I'd like to see Seb and Carrie get married. They're made for each other.*

3 **make for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to help to cause a particular effect or situation, or to produce a particular result: *The game was played in heavy rain, which made for very dangerous conditions.* | *With restaurants open late into the night, it all makes for a festive atmosphere.* | *The author's description is vivid and thorough, and this makes for a very good read.*

make into

1 **make** *sth* **into** *sth*

to change something in order to use it in a different way or for a different purpose: *Sagan's best-selling book is being made into a movie by director Robert Zemeckis.* | *The assistant showed us how an ordinary-looking sofa could be made into two beds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

2 **make** *sb* **into** *sth*

to change someone so that they become a different sort of person or have a different position in society: *The film made her into a star overnight.* | *Russell had spent a year in prison before he was found not guilty. It had made him into a bitter man.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

make of

what do you make of *sth/sb?*

if you ask someone what they make of something or someone, you want to know what their opinion of or reaction to them is: *"I say, what do you make of this?" Martin said, pointing to a small article in that morning's paper.*

not know what to make of sth/sb (=not know how to understand or react towards something or someone) *When the company suddenly announced that its regional offices were closing, we didn't know what to make of it.* | *Hudson didn't like children, and never really knew what to make of his son.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **think of**

make off

make off

to leave quickly, especially in order to escape: *Detectives believe that the gunmen made off in the direction of Barnwell Park.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

make off with

make off with *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to steal something and escape with it: *Biggs and sixteen others made off with £2.5 million in the Great Train Robbery of 1965.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make away with**

make out

1 **make out** *sth* **make** *sth* **out** NOT PASSIVE

if you can make something out, you can see or hear it, but with difficulty: *In the semi-darkness, Delaney could just make out the Russian's face.*

not be able to make sth out (=not be able to see or hear something clearly) *The words were in small print and I couldn't quite make them out.* | *Maurice could hear voices in the kitchen below, but he couldn't make out what was being said.*

2 **make out** *sth* **make** *sth* **out** NOT PASSIVE, USUALLY NEGATIVE

if you can make something out, you can understand it although it is difficult to understand: *Nobody could make out exactly what Murphy was trying to say.* | *I can't make out why she did that, can you?*

from what sb can make out... (=according to what someone understands about a situation, although it may not be correct) *From what I can make out, the girl ran straight into the road, without stopping to look.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work out** *especially BrE*, **figure out**

3 **make** *sth/sb* **out to be** *sth*

to describe something or someone, usually wrongly, as a particular type of thing or person, because you want people to believe that it is true: *He was a good man, but the press made him out to be weak and unimportant.* | *So what about fox-hunting? Is it really the bloody sport that it's made out to be?*

4 **make out (that)**

especially BrE to try to make people believe that something is true when it is not: *Don't you make out I'm a liar, Eric, or I'll knock you down!* | *When Mum came in I was still feeling really annoyed so I made out that I was watching TV.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pretend**

5 **make out a cheque/bill etc**

to write the necessary information on a cheque, bill etc: *We sat down to wait while the receptionist made out our bill.* | *I mailed a check for $30.80, made out to Lakewood Country Club.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write out**

6 **can't make** *sb* **out**

if you can't make someone out, you cannot understand what kind of person they are, or why they behave as they do: *Dorothy's such a quiet reserved person. I've never been able to make her out at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **can't figure sb out, can't work sb out** *BrE*

7 **make out**

AmE informal to kiss and touch someone in a sexual way: *A couple of teenagers were making out in the back of the movie theater.*

* SIMILAR TO: **snog** *BrE informal*

8 **how did you make out?**

spoken used to ask if someone was successful: *How did you make out in the race yesterday?*

make over

make *sth* **over**

BrE to officially give money or property to someone else, so that it legally belongs to them

+ to *When Rose reached sixty, she made over the farm to her son.*

make towards

make towards *sth*

especially BrE to start moving towards something: *Without a word, Bert gently picked up the frightened child and made towards the house.*

make up

1 **make up** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

if a number of parts or members make up something, they combine together to form it: *Women made up over 40% of the workforce.* | *the countries that make up the United Nations*

be made up of *Indonesia is made up of over 13,000 islands.* | *The group was made up of a psychologist, a social worker, and myself.*

make-up N [U]
the things or people that something consists of: *There have been a lot of changes to the make-up of the team.*

2 **make up your mind/make your mind up**

to make a definite decision or choice, after thinking about it for a long time: *I wish he'd hurry up and make up his mind.* | *In the fall of 1945 he made up his mind to quit school.*

+ what/which/whether etc *The doctors couldn't make up their minds what to do.*

+ (that) *By the time they got home he had already made up his mind that he wanted to marry her.*

sb's mind is made up (=they have decided to do something and are determined to do it) *From the moment she saw her first ballet her mind was made up. She wanted to be a dancer, and nothing else.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **decide**

3 **make up** *sth* | **make** *sth* **up**

to think of a lie, excuse, or story that is not true in order to deceive someone: *Diana's brother accused the press of harassing her and making up stories about her.* | *I bet he's making it all up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **invent**

made-up ADJ
not true and intended to deceive someone: *She just gave them some made-up story about how she needed the money for an emergency.*

4 **make up** *sth* | **make** *sth* **up**

to think of something new using your imagination, for example the words for a new song, story etc: *The soldiers used to make up rude songs about him.* | *He couldn't remember any fairy stories, so he made one up about a magic carpet – the children loved it.*

make it up as you go along (=decide how to do something while you are doing it instead of planning it before) *We didn't have any experience when we started the company, so we just made it up as we went along.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **invent**

5 **make up** *sth* | **made** *sth* **up**

to prepare or arrange something so that it is ready to be used – use this about lists, beds, sandwiches, or medicines: *My wife's made up a bed for you in the spare room.* | *Shall I make up some sandwiches?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **prepare, get ready**

6 **make up** | **make it up**

if two people who have had an argument make up, they talk to each other and agree to become friends again

+ with *Although the father had made up with his daughter, there was still a strain between him and his son-in-law.*

kiss and make up *spoken* (=become friendly again with someone after an argument) *Alderson isn't about to kiss and make up with his adversaries soon, and has issued a string of lawsuits against them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **patch up**

7 **make up** *sth* | **make** *sth* **up**

if you make up time that you have taken off work, you spend that time working later: *Janine took the morning off and told her boss that she'll make it up later.* | *I'm going home early – I'll make up the time tomorrow.*

make-up test N [C]
AmE a test in school or college that you do later than other people in the class, because you were not there to do it at the same time

8 **make up** *sth*

to add to an amount or number, so that you have the amount or number that you need in order to do something: *I'm paying £800 towards the car, and my parents say they'll make up the rest of the money.* | *We need two more players to make up the team.*

make up the difference (=pay the remaining money that is needed) *70% of the theatre's costs are covered by ticket sales, with a government grant making up the difference.*

9 **make up** *sb* | **make** *sb* **up**

to put coloured creams, powders etc onto someone's face to change the way they look: *She had been made up to look like an old woman.*

make-up N [U]
coloured creams, powders etc that people, especially women and actors, put on their face to change their appearance: *I always go for heavy sixties-style eye make-up.* | *She paused before applying her make-up and stared at the mirror.*

10 **make up** *sth* | **make** *sth* **up**

to make a dress, suit etc by cutting and sewing cloth: *We have these suits made up for us in the Far East.* | *If you have a sewing machine you can save money on clothes by making them up yourself.*

make up for

1 **make up for** *sth*

if a good situation makes up for a bad one, it makes you forget the bad situation and feel happy again: *Last night's victory made up for all the problems we've had in previous games.*

more than make up for sth (=be so good that it makes the bad situation seem unimportant) *She felt exhausted, but the sheer pleasure of having reached the summit more than made up for it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **compensate for**

2 **make up for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to do something good for someone after doing something bad to them, so that they forgive you: *Can I buy you lunch to make up for being late?* | *Mike forgot his wife's birthday – so he took her to Paris to make up for it.*

3 **make up for** *sth*

to have so much of a good quality that it is not important that you do not have enough of another quality: *Perhaps Sue lacked natural skill, but she certainly made up for that with her enthusiasm. | What the diamonds lacked in size, they apparently made up for in quality.*

4 **make up for lost time**

a to work more quickly or at times when you do not usually work, because something has prevented you from doing your work: *I was ill last week, so I had to work all weekend to make up for lost time.*

b to become involved in an activity very eagerly, because you wish you had discovered it earlier in your life: *Ursula didn't start dancing until she was 40, so now she feels she's trying to make up for lost time.*

make up to

1 **make it up to** *sb*

to do something good for someone after disappointing them or treating them badly, so that they forgive you: *I'm sorry I haven't seen you much lately, but I'll make it up to you, I promise.*

2 **make up to** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to talk to someone in a very friendly way because you want to have sex with them: *Paul came to the party uninvited, and then started making up to all the women.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chat up** *BrE informal*

3 **make up to** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

BrE old-fashioned to be very friendly to someone in authority because you want them to do something for you: *students who start making up to the teacher just before the exams*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **suck up to** *informal*

MAP

mapped, mapped, mapping

map out

map out *sth* **map** *sth* **out**

to plan something carefully or to explain carefully what your plans are: *Felicity's future had been mapped out for her by wealthy and adoring parents. | The Chancellor mapped out yesterday what he hopes is Britain's road to recovery.*

MARCH

marched, marched, marching

march on

march on *sth*

to walk to a particular place in a large group in order to attack it or to protest about something: *Mikael gathered his troops and prepared to march on Addis Ababa. | Demonstrators marched on the government in Berlin, and demanded that its leaders answer for their policies.*

MARK

marked, marked, marking

mark as

mark *sb/sth* **as** *sth*

to show or consider that someone or something is a particular type of person or thing: *Townsend's skill and speed mark him as a player of potential. | When she first saw Patrick she had marked him as a bully.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mark down as** *BrE*, **label**

mark down

1 **mark** *sth* **down** **mark down** *sth*

to reduce the price of something: *Pentos shares were marked down by 14p to 56p. | The store was having its final sale on Friday, with everything marked down by 20%.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

● OPPOSITE: **mark up**

markdown N [C]
a reduction in the price of something: *We are offering a 20% markdown on selected products.*

2 **mark down** *sth* **mark** *sth* **down**

to write something down, especially in order to keep a record: *As part of the diet, I had to mark down everything I ate each day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jot down**

3 **mark** *sb/sth* **down** **mark down** *sb/sth*

if teachers mark a student or their work down, they give the student a lower score: *Miss Perkovich marked me down three points for beginning a sentence with 'but'.*

mark down as

mark *sb/sth* **down as** *sth*

BrE to consider someone or something to be a particular type of person or thing: *From the start of his rugby career, Andrew has been marked down as a very exciting player. | The Netherlands was marked down as a particularly attractive area for economic expansion.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mark as**

mark off

1 **mark off** *sth* **mark** *sth* **off**

to separate an area of ground or show where its border is: *Within the garden, hedges are valuable for marking off special areas and providing shelter. | The Voskresenye Gates mark off the north side of Red Square.*

2 **mark** *sth/sb* **off** | **mark off** *sb/sth*

to make something or someone different from other things or people of a similar type

+ from *Each of the city's districts has its own distinct character that marks it off from its neighbours.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **distinguish** *formal*

3 **mark** *sth* **off** | **mark off** *sth*

to put a mark beside or through something that is written on a list, to show that it has been dealt with or chosen etc: *I began to mark the days off on a chart.* | *He marked off the names of people he could rely on for support.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cross off, tick off** *BrE*, **check off**

mark out

1 **mark** *sb/sth* **out** | **mark out** *sb/sth*

BrE to make someone or something seem different from or better than other people or things, especially in a very noticeable way: *Felipe was broad-shouldered and slim. He still had that athletic look that had marked him out so long ago.*

+ as *Her considerable experience of international law marked her out as exceptional.*

+ from *It's the way real ale is produced that marks it out from other beers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **distinguish**

2 **mark out** *sth* | **mark** *sth* **out**

to separate a particular area from the area around it, by drawing lines or using other signs: *The area marked out here is intended as a viewing platform for spectators.*

3 **be marked out (for** *sth***)**

if someone is marked out for something, they have special qualities and abilities which make them likely to achieve it

+ for *Right from the beginning, he seemed to have been marked out for a career in baseball.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be destined**

mark up

1 **mark up** *sth* | **mark** *sth* **up**

to increase the price of something, especially so that it will sell for more than has been paid for it: *It annoys farmers to see how much their produce has been marked up by the time it reaches the shops.* | *The market was relieved that the figures were not worse, and marked the shares up 7p.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put up, hike up**

● OPPOSITE: **mark down**

mark-up N [C]
an increase in the price of something, especially the difference between the amount a store pays for something and the amount it sells it for: *The mark-up on eggs between producer and supermarket is between 160% and 170%.*

2 **mark** *sth* **up** | **mark up** *sth*

BrE to put a mark beside something that is written on a list, to show that you have dealt with it or chosen it: *It was Lawrie's job to collect the rents and mark them up in a book.* | *The vehicles are all tested first and their parts are marked up for repair as necessary.*

3 **mark up** *sth* | **mark** *sth* **up**

to write any necessary instructions for changes on a piece of writing or music that is intended to be printed: *Text must be checked and marked up for corrections.*

MARRY

married, married, marrying

marry above

marry above yourself/
marry above your station

old-fashioned to marry someone of a higher social class than your own: *In the book, Rose Trelawny is a singer who tries to marry above her station.*

● OPPOSITE: **marry beneath you/yourself** *old-fashioned*

marry beneath

marry beneath you/yourself

to marry someone of a lower social class than your own: *People said that Elsie had married beneath her, when she married James Abott, a farm worker.*

● OPPOSITE: **marry above yourself/marry above your station** *old-fashioned*

marry into

marry into *sth*

to marry someone from a particular family or social group, especially a rich or important one, and so become part of it: *Douglas Robinson married into the Roosevelt family of Oyster Bay.*

marry off

marry off *sb* | **marry** *sb* **off**

old-fashioned to arrange for someone, especially a female member of your family, to get married or to marry someone you have chosen: *In country areas it was common for fathers to marry off their daughters when they reached twelve or thirteen.*

+ to *The Duke's daughter, Anne, was seized and married off to Charles VIII of France.*

marry out

marry out

old-fashioned to marry someone whose religion or social background is different to your own: *A lot of Jewish people were frightened that their children might marry out and raise their children as non-Jews.*

+ of *The film centres on a clever young man who marries out of his working-class background.*

marry up

marry up | **marry up** *sth*

marry *sth* **up**

BrE old-fashioned if two things marry up or if you marry them up, they join together or connect

+ with *The two halves can then be trimmed and married up.* | *The new parts should marry up with the old system.*

* SIMILAR TO: **connect**

MARVEL

marvelled, marvelled, marvelling BrE
marveled, marveled, marveling AmE

marvel at

marvel at *sth*

to be very surprised by something, especially a quality that you admire about something or someone: *Those who watch the programme marvel at the speed of Carole's brain.* | *Visitors never cease to marvel at the beauty of the Taj Mahal.* | *One can only marvel at the wisdom of the writers of the US constitution.*

MASH

mashed, mashed, mashing

mash up

mash *sth* **up** | **mash up** *sth*

to crush food until it is soft and smooth: *He was busy mashing up vegetables for the baby's lunch.*

MASK

masked, masked, masking

mask off

mask off *sth* | **mask** *sth* **off**

to cover a surface, for example with paper, so that you can paint or do something else to the area that surrounds it without affecting the part you have covered: *Remove the door handles and carefully mask off any areas that you do not want to paint.*

MASQUERADE

masqueraded, masqueraded, masquerading

masquerade as

masquerade as *sth/sb* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to pretend or appear to be something or someone different: *I have better things to do than discuss the silly stories that masquerade as news in some local newspapers.* | *By masquerading as poisonous insects, these flies avoid attacks from birds.* | *We had a cup of hot brown stuff which masqueraded as tea.*

MATCH

matched, matched, matching

match against

1 **match** *sb/sth* **against** *sb/sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to make two people, teams etc compete against each other to see which one is best: *The two men were matched against each other in Game 3 of the American League Championship series.*

2 **match** *sth* **against** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to compare one thing with another in order to see whether they are the same: *The correct answers can be matched very quickly against each candidate's test.* | *No fingerprints were found in the car which could be matched against the ones in the flat.*

match up

1 **match up**

if two things match up, they are similar or suitable for each other in some way

+ with *What other people say does not always match up with our own experience.*

+ against *especially BrE It's important to select employees who match up against a particular job profile.*

* SIMILAR TO: **match**

2 **match** *sb/sth* **up** | **match up** *sb/sth*

to bring together two people or things that seem to be suitable for each other

+ with *She only invited me to dinner to try and match me up with her brother.* | *When choosing a furnishing fabric, remember to match it up with the other colours in the room.*

3 **match up**

especially BrE to be of a good enough standard: *If they want to be players on the international scene, their standards will have to match up.* | *It was fashionable to be incredibly thin and my figure just didn't match up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **measure up**

4 **match up**

especially AmE if a team, player etc matches up with another team, player etc, they play at a similar standard and compete against each other well

+ against/with *The Raiders didn't match up well against the Chiefs, who seemed to get all the opportunities they needed.*

matchup N [C]
AmE a match or competition between two or more teams or people: *In the Clinton-Dole-Powell matchup, Clinton won with nearly 44% of the vote.*

+ with *The nation's no.1 team is heading into tonight's Final Four matchup with Kentucky.*

match up to

match up to *sth/sb*

to be as good, interesting etc as something or someone else: *I'd already read the book, but the filmed matched up to it in every way. | Our neighbours returned from their holiday early, complaining that Rome did not match up to London!*

match up to your expectations/hopes/ideals etc (=be as good as you expected, hoped etc) *I was really disappointed by Hollywood. It didn't match up to my expectations at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **measure up, live up to**

MAUL
mauled, mauled, mauling

maul around/about

maul *sth/sb* **around/about**

BrE informal to pull something or someone from one position to another in a rough or violent way: *Some of the women complained about the medical examination, saying that they had been mauled about and treated like pieces of meat.*

MAX
maxed, maxed, maxing

max out

1 **max out**

AmE informal if you max out on something, you have too much of it and do not want any more

+ on *Today's audiences have maxed out on violent movies and are demanding family-oriented films.*

2 **max out**

AmE informal to put as much time, effort, money etc as possible into doing something: *Jordan has been maxing out in every game and keeping up a fast pace.*

maxed-out ADJ
AmE informal if a system, process, method etc is maxed-out, it is being used to the highest degree possible: *We need to take care of the city's maxed-out sewage system by finding ways to conserve water.*

3 **max out your credit card**

AmE informal to spend the highest amount that your credit card will allow: *College students often max out their credit cards and spend years repaying the debt.*

MEASURE
measured, measured, measuring

measure against

measure *sb/sth* **against** *sb/sth*

to judge how good or bad someone or something is, by comparing them with someone or something else: *With the government's national tests, it is now possible to measure each child against fixed standards. | The administration's achievements are less impressive if we measure them against their intentions.*

measure yourself against sb/sth *If all musicians measured themselves against Mozart, they would get very depressed.*

measure off

measure *sth* **off** | **measure off** *sth*

to measure a length of something. especially material and cut it off from a larger piece: *They decided on a dark green material, and the elderly assistant measured off the required length.*

measure out

measure out *sth* | **measure** *sth* **out**

to weigh or measure a particular amount of something that you want to use, often in order to make something: *I showed the children how to measure out and mix the ingredients for the cake. | The shop assistant got down the dress material and measured it out carefully.*

measure up

1 **measure up** ✗

to be of a good enough standard

how does sb/sth measure up (=used when asking what someone or something is like and whether they are good enough) *What happens to teachers who don't measure up? | How does your new house measure up?*

M

+ to *I wondered how he would measure up to being chairman.* | *Some of the college's courses do not measure up to the required standard.*

2 | **measure up** | | **measure** *sth* **up** | | **measure up** *sth* |

to measure the exact size of something, for example a room or a piece of furniture: *In most cases, when you buy new carpets, the firm will measure up for you.* | *We hadn't measured up properly, and when the washing machine arrived it wouldn't fit in the space.*

3 | **measure** *sb* **up** | | **measure up** *sb* |

to look at someone carefully in order to decide what your opinion of them is, especially when you first meet them: *The two men shook hands and silently measured each other up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **size up, weigh up**

measure up against

| **measure** *sb/sth* **up against** *sb/sth* |

to compare someone or something with another person or thing, in order to find which is better, bigger etc: *How does the company's performance measure up against the best in the world?*

measure up to

| **measure up to** *sb/sth* |

to be as good as someone or something else, when you compare them: *According to our research, girls still do not measure up to boys in science subjects.*

MEET

met, met, meeting

meet up

1 | **meet up** |

to meet someone, either because you have arranged to, or by chance: *If you'd like to meet up for a drink sometime, give me a call.* | *The members of the band had all had various music jobs before they met up a year ago.*

+ with *We met up with the rest of the group in Frankfurt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **meet, get together**

2 | **meet up** |

if two or more things meet up, they join or come together at a particular place: *A number of paths run down through the woods and meet up at the bottom.*

+ with *She was wearing a tiny white T-shirt that didn't meet up with her jeans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **join**

meet with

1 | **meet with** *sb* | NOT PASSIVE

to have a meeting with someone in order to discuss or arrange something: *Buchanan will meet with his advisers on Thursday to decide on his next course of action.*

2 | **meet with** *sth* /**be met with** *sth* |

if something meets with or is met with a particular reaction, that is the way people react to it: *The architect's design did not meet with their approval.* | *A decision to hold the conference in Berlin met with resistance from our colleagues.* | *The government's proposals were met with opposition by all the parties concerned.* | *News of the merger has been met with great excitement in the city.*

3 | **meet with** *sth* | NOT PASSIVE

if someone or something meets with success, failure, problems etc, they experience success, failure, problems etc: *The company's efforts to expand met with some success.*

meet with an accident (=have an accident) *Bill looked serious. "One of our workers has met with an accident," he said.*

MELLOW

mellowed, mellowed, mellowing

mellow out

| **mellow out** | | **mellow** *sb* **out** |

AmE informal to become relaxed and calm, or to make someone become relaxed and calm: *I just like to go home and mellow out in front of the TV after work.* | *She's really mellowed him out in the two years they've been dating.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax, chill out** *spoken informal*

MELT

melted, melted, melting

melt away

1 | **melt away** |

to gradually disappear: *Harman saw her hopes of promotion slowly melt away.* | *He laughed suddenly, and all the irritation in his face melted away.*

+ into *The high rocky cliffs melted away into long stretches of silvery beach.* | *Olivia saw his hard look melt away into tenderness.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fade away**

2 | **melt away** |

if people melt away, they gradually move away from someone or somewhere, often until they have completely disappeared: *By the time the police appeared, most of the crowd had melted away.*

+ into *He looked back briefly, but Coleman had already melted away into the darkness.*

3 **melt away** | **melt away** *sth* | **melt** *sth* **away**

to melt or to make something melt completely or until it has disappeared: *The next day it was a surprise to wake up and find that the snow had melted away.* | *The hot steam melts away the sticky oils and greases in the carpet, releasing dirt which can be vacuumed up later.*

melt down

melt *sth* **down** | **melt down** *sth*

to heat metal until it becomes a liquid and can be used again: *Silver from this period is rare, as it was melted down in the Revolution to fund wars.* | *The beautiful copper engraving had been melted down to make a tea-kettle.*

meltdown N [C,U]
a very dangerous situation in which the material in a nuclear reactor melts and burns through its container, allowing radioactivity to escape. A nuclear reactor is a large machine that produces nuclear energy: *One incident at Greifswald in 1976 nearly caused a meltdown, which would have been a disaster even greater than Chernobyl.*

melt into

1 **melt into** *sth*

to disappear or change and be replaced by something else: *She watched the hope in his face melt into disappointment.* | *The crowd's cheers melted into gasps of admiration and approval.*

2 **melt into** *sth*

if people melt into a crowd, a wood etc, they move towards it and into it until they are part of it and cannot be seen: *Lesley said goodbye and watched him melt into the crowds.* | *One of the boys ran straight past and melted into the shadows before anyone could stop him.* | *There was no-one at the party that he knew or wanted to know. He decided to melt into the background.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disappear**

MERGE
merged, merged, merging

merge in

merge in

BrE if two or more things merge in, they are so similar in style, colour, appearance etc that you do not notice much difference between them

+ with *I chose very pale curtains that would merge in with the walls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blend in**

merge into

1 **merge into** *sth*

to gradually disappear or seem to disappear and become part of something else: *Autumn slowly merged into winter.* | *We followed the track south until it eventually merged into a minor road leading to the village.* | *As night fell, their figures merged into the landscape.*

2 **merge into the background**

BrE to be in a position in which you are not at all noticeable or important: *Evans went to live among the people of southern Sudan, hoping to merge into the background of their everyday lives.*

MESS
messed, messed, messing

mess around
ALSO **mess about** *especially BrE*

1 **mess around/about**

informal to behave in a silly way, when you should be working or helping someone: *Stop messing about you two!* | *I used to mess about a lot in class when I was at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **muck about/around** *BrE informal*, **fool around** *AmE informal*

2 **mess around/about**

informal to spend your time enjoying yourself and relaxing or playing: *She spends most of her weekends messing around at the beach.*

3 **mess** *sb* **around/about**

BrE informal to treat someone badly, for example by not being completely honest with them or by not doing what you have agreed to do: *Linda's upset because some guy's been messing her around.* | *I still haven't had my money from the insurance company – they've really messed me around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **muck sb about/around** *BrE informal*, **mess with**

mess around with sb *AmE*
ALSO **mess about with** *BrE*

1 **mess around/about with** *sth*

informal to try to change something in order to try to improve it or make it work better, especially when it would be better if you did not: *I came home to find Mike messing around with the television.* | *It's a lovely song – I just wish people wouldn't mess around with it.* | *The message here is simple – don't mess around with a system that already works perfectly well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **muck about/around with** *especially BrE informal*, **mess with** *informal*

2 **mess around/about with** *sb*

informal to have a sexual relationship with someone who is married or already has a boyfriend or girlfriend: *I can't stand men who mess around with other people's wives.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fool around with, play around with** *informal*

3 **mess around with** *sb*

AmE informal to treat someone badly, for example by not being completely honest with them or by not doing what you have agreed to do: *Cranberg told his attorneys to quit messing around with him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess sb around/about** *BrE informal*

mess up

1 **mess up** *sth* **mess** *sth* **up**

informal to spoil something important, especially something that it has taken you a long time to plan or do: *If you make a mistake like that it can easily mess up a whole day's work.* | *I'm sorry if I messed up all your plans.*

mess things up (=spoil someone's plans) *If we can't get our passports in time it'll really mess things up for the holiday.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cock up** *BrE informal*, **foul up** *informal*

2 **mess** *sth* **up** **mess up** *sth*

informal to make something dirty or untidy: *Don't come in here with those muddy boots. You'll mess up the carpet.*

be messed up *Her hair was all messed up, as though she'd just gotten out of bed.*

3 **mess up** **mess** *sth* **up**

informal to make a mistake or do something badly: *The hardest thing in the world is to stand up and say, "I messed up and it was my fault."* | *"How did the exam go?" "Terrible. I think I really messed it up."*

mess up big time (=make a bad mistake) *When political figures mess up big time like this, they always make the same excuse.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cock up** *BrE informal*

4 **mess** *sb* **up** **mess up** *sb*

informal to upset someone badly or to make them have emotional or mental problems: *She had a lot of problems when she was young, which really messed her up in later years.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **screw up** *informal*

messed-up ADJ
someone who is messed-up has serious emotional or mental problems: *When I made the film Midnight Express, I had to play a man who was permanently messed-up.*

mess with

1 **mess with** *sth/sb*

informal to get involved with something or someone that may cause problems or be dangerous: *She always told her kids never to mess with drugs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fool with** *AmE informal*

2 **mess with** *sb*

spoken informal to annoy or cause trouble for someone, especially someone dangerous: *Just keep your mouth shut. That's Johnny's house. No one messes with him.* | *"If you mess with me, Deacon," he said in a slow voice, "I'll rip your head off."*

3 **mess with** *sth*

informal to try to change or improve something that does not look right or is not working well: *I wish you'd stop messing with the TV, I'm trying to watch it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess around with** *informal*

METE

meted, meted, meting

mete out

mete *sth* **out** **mete out** *sth*

formal to give someone a punishment, or type of treatment, especially one that is severe or unfair: *Severe punishments are metered out to anyone who dares to oppose the military government.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **deal out, administer** *formal*

MILITATE

militated, militated, militating

militate against

militate against *sth/sb*

formal to make it difficult or unlikely that something will happen or that someone will succeed: *Today's crowded world militates against a sense of community.* | *It has been suggested that the increasing importance of science and technology in the workplace will militate against women.*

MILL

milled, milled, milling

mill around
ALSO **mill about** *BrE*

mill around/about

mill around/about *sth*

informal if a lot of people mill around, they move around within a place or area, especially slowly, or while waiting for something to happen: *There was chaos outside, with people milling around the body, waiting for an ambulance to arrive.* | *The guests were milling about the courtyard, with glasses of champagne in their hands.*

MIND

mind out

mind out! *BrE spoken*

a used to warn someone that they need to be careful: *Mind out! The handle's very hot!*

* SIMILAR TO: **look out!** *spoken*, **watch out**

b used to ask someone, not very politely, to move so that you can pass them: *Mind out! I need to get something out of the oven.*

MINISTER

ministered, ministered, ministering

minister to

minister to *sb/sth*

formal to look after someone who is ill or who needs help: *During her life she did wonderful work on several continents, ministering to the sick and dying.* | *Altogether the organization operates about eighty centres ministering to the needs of India's poor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attend to** *formal*

MINOR

minored, minored, minoring

minor in

minor in *sth*

AmE to study a second subject at a college or university that is less important for your degree than your main subject: *Business students often minor in a foreign language.*

● COMPARE: **major in**

MISS

missed, missed, missing

miss out

1 **miss** *sth/sb* **out** | **miss out** *sth/sb*

BrE to fail to include something or someone, especially when you are writing or talking: *Read through your application form afterwards to make sure you haven't missed anything out.* | *You've missed out the most vital piece of information on this invitation – where the party is!*

* SIMILAR TO: **omit, leave out**

2 **miss out**

to not get the chance to do or have something that you would enjoy or that would be good for you, especially a chance that other people succeed in getting: *We have a great range of holidays available, and at such good prices you really mustn't miss out!*

+ **on** *I didn't want to go abroad at Christmas and miss out on all the fun at home.* | *Ronnie Massarella was furious last night after his team missed out on the medals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lose out**

MIST

misted, misted, misting

mist over

mist over

if your eyes mist over, they fill with tears so that it is difficult for you to see clearly: *Kathleen felt her eyes misting over as she told her story.*

mist over/up

mist over/up | **mist** *sth* **over/up**

especially BrE if something made of glass mists over or is misted over, it becomes covered with very small drops of water so that it is difficult to see through it: *Without the engine running, the inside of the car was beginning to mist up.* | *The windows of the small room were misted over with condensation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **steam up, fog up**

MIX

mixed, mixed, mixing

mix in

1 **mix in** *sth* | **mix** *sth* **in**

to add one substance to another and combine them – use this especially about food: *When the rice is cooked, gently mix in all the other ingredients.*

2 **mixed in**

combined with something else

+ **with** *The movie has lots of action and adventure, mixed in with some comedy.*

mix up

1 **mix** *sb/sth* **up** | **mix up** *sb/sth*

to make the mistake of thinking that someone or something is another person or thing: *The hospital has been accused of mixing up two newborn babies.*

get sb/sth mixed up (=mix up two people or things) *The interviewer was terrible – he kept getting the names of his guests mixed up.* | *It's funny how dreams and memories sometimes get mixed up.*

+ **with** *"You've got me mixed up with some other guy," Marty said nervously.*

* SIMILAR TO: **confuse, muddle up** *BrE*

mix-up N [C]

a mistake that happens when people understand the details of a situation differently and often wrongly

M

+ over *Sports chiefs were examining claims that there had been a mix-up over the rules.* | *There's been a bit of a mix-up over it – I thought you were providing the food.*

2 **get mixed up**

to become confused about something: *I could see that the old man was getting more and more mixed up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get confused**

mixed-up ADJ
confused, especially because you have emotional or social problems: *Frankie was a lonely and mixed-up teenager*

3 **mix** *sb* **up** | **mix up** *sb*

AmE to make someone feel confused: *Jerry's directions mixed them up, and they drove around lost for about 30 minutes.* | *Coaches can mix up a player during a game by yelling at him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **confuse**

4 **mix** *sth* **up** | **mix up** *sth*

to change the order of a group of things, with the result that they are not arranged in the proper order: *I've sorted all my clothes into piles, so please don't mix them up.* | *The teacher disconnected all the cables, mixed them up and told us to reconnect them.*

+ with *His money and private letters were all mixed up with the newspapers on his desk.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jumble up, muddle up** *BrE*

5 **mix** *sth* **up** | **mix up** *sth*

to put different substances together and combine them so that they become one substance: *Put the chopped eggs, butter, salt and pepper in a bowl and mix them all up into a paste.*

6 **be/get mixed up in** *sth*

to be or become involved in something that is illegal or unpleasant: *Mr Varsov had been mixed up in a number of shady deals in the Middle East.* | *Why didn't you call the police, instead of getting mixed up in the fight?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be/get involved (in)**

7 **be/get mixed up with** *sb*

to be or become involved with a person or group that has a bad influence on you or that is involved in something illegal: *Davies was anxious that his client might be mixed up with a terrorist organization.* | *Mum and Dad were worried that I was getting mixed up with the wrong crowd.*

8 **mix it up**

a *AmE informal* to argue or fight angrily with someone: *Football's Lyle Alzado was arrested Tuesday after mixing it up with a police officer.*

b *AmE informal* to talk and spend time socially with other people, especially people who have a higher social position: *The youngest coach in the league isn't afraid to mix it up with the veterans.*

mix with

mix it with *sb*

BrE informal to compete against someone or to become involved in a fight with them: *The former golden girl of tennis, who was mixing it with the best in the world five years ago, was beaten by Smith yesterday, 7–2.*

MOCK

mocked, mocked, mocking

mock up

mock *sth* **up** | **mock up** *sth*

to make a simple copy of something that is going to be made or built, in order to show people what the real thing will look like or how it will work: *I showed them a sample I had mocked up of the kind of book they could make.*

mock-up N [C]
a simple copy of something that shows how it will look or how it will work: *The architect produced a miniature three-dimensional mock-up of the building.*

MODEL

modelled, modelled, modelling *BrE*
modeled, modeled, modeling *AmE*

model on/upon

● **Model upon** is more formal than **model on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **model** *sth* **on/upon** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to base a design or structure on something: *The architecture of the building was modelled on the Doge's Palace in Venice.* | *Reza Khan imposed new laws modeled on western principles.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **base on**

2 **model yourself on** *sb*

to copy another person's behaviour, style etc, because you admire them: *Lewis admits to having modelled himself on Muhammad Ali.*

MOLDER

molder

SEE **moulder/molder**

MONKEY

monkeyed, monkeyed, monkeying

monkey around
ALSO **monkey about** *BrE*

monkey around/about

informal to behave in a silly or annoying way: *Tell the kids to stop monkeying around and go to sleep.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, play around, mess around** *informal*

monkey around with
ALSO **monkey about with** *BrE*

monkey around/about with *sth*

informal to touch or use something that is not yours or change something that does not need to be changed: *I think all criminals know what to expect if they monkey about with other people's cars.* | *Politicians are always threatening to monkey around with the tax system.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around with** *informal*, **muck about/around with** *BrE informal*

MOOCH

mooched, mooched, mooching

mooch around/about

mooch around/about

mooch around/about *sth* NOT PASSIVE

BrE informal to spend your time doing very little and often feeling bored or lazy: *Beth was happy to mooch around for hours in her nightdress, drinking black coffee and watching breakfast television.* | *I spent most of the day mooching around the centre of the town, looking in shop windows.*

* SIMILAR TO: **laze around/about, doss about/around** *BrE informal*

MOON

mooned, mooned, mooning

moon around
ALSO **moon about** *BrE*

moon around/about

moon around/about *sth* NOT PASSIVE

BrE informal to spend your time doing very little, especially because you feel sad or because you are thinking about someone you love: *She could hardly wait to see him again, but there was no point just mooning around until then.* | *I mooned about the house while my wife was in hospital, not getting on well with my writing at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mooch around/about** *BrE informal*

moon over

moon over *sb*

to spend all your time thinking about someone that you are in love with: *I wish Alice would get on with her life, instead of just mooning over Lester Stone.*

MOP

mopped, mopped, mopping

mop up

1 **mop up** *sth* | **mop** *sth* **up** | **mop up**

to remove liquid from a surface, using a cloth or something similar: *A waitress rushed forward to mop up the spilt beer and pick up the broken glass.* | *Don't worry. It's only water. It's easily mopped up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wipe up**

2 **mop up** | **mop up** *sth* | **mop** *sth* **up**

to deal with the water, dirt etc that has been caused by a flood or by putting out a fire: *Most of the flames are out, but the fire crews will continue mopping up for several days.* | *Britain was mopping up yesterday after one month's rain fell overnight.* | *People mopping up their homes were warned that heavy rains could continue until the weekend.*

mopping-up operation N [C]
a mopping-up operation involves dealing with the water, dirt etc caused by a flood or a fire: *Mopping-up operations began as the floods receded, leaving mud inside and out.*

3 **mop up** *sth/sb* | **mop** *sth/sb* **up**

mop up

especially AmE to succeed in getting or winning something, especially when you are competing against others: *John Liley mopped up all the points in the Pilkington Cup semi-final.* | *"I want you to win all the medals you can. I want you to mop up and do great," Clinton told the American athletes.*

4 **mop up** *sth* | **mop** *sth* **up**

to get up the last food or liquid on your plate using a piece of bread or something similar: *Serve the chicken with plenty of bread to mop up the sauces.*

5 **mop up** *sth/sb* | **mop** *sth/sb* **up**

mop up

to deal with a problem so that it no longer exists: *It's in the inner cities that the government is most anxious to mop up unemployment.* | *The President's first year in office was mainly spent mopping up after the earlier administrations.*

6 **mop up** *sth* | **mop** *sth* **up**

to kill the remaining soldiers from an enemy army, or to take them as prisoners: *Residents were refused access to the town as the Serbian-dominated army mopped up Muslim opposition.*

mopping-up operation N [C]
a mopping-up operation involves killing the remaining soldiers from an enemy army, or taking them as prisoners: *The General described the deployment of troops in the city as the start of a mopping up operation.*

7 **mop up** *sth* | **mop** *sth* **up**

if a large company mops up a smaller company, it buys it and makes it part of the larger company: *The bank has been mopped up by Hong Kong Shanghai and RBS. | While it attempts to mop up most of South America's carriers, Iberia is also expanding north of the border.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take over**

MOPE

moped, moped, moping

mope around/about

mope around/about

mope around/about *sth*

informal to spend your time doing very little, feeling unhappy and thinking about your problems: *Instead of moping around the house all morning, why don't you come out with me? | Since he left his job, he's done nothing except mope about and complain.*

MORPH

morphed, morphed, morphing

morph into

morph into *sth*

informal, especially AmE to change into another person or thing by magic or using special powers – use this about characters in films or on television: *In the movie, Johnson's character had the power to morph into animals.*

MOULDER *BrE* MOLDER *AmE*

mouldered, mouldered, mouldering

moulder away

1 **moulder away**

to decay slowly as the result of not being used or needed: *While some countries are starving, food supplies all over Europe are mouldering away. | These beautiful old buildings are far too precious for us to allow them to moulder away.*

2 **moulder away**

informal to grow old and waste your life because you always do the same thing and never do anything new or exciting: *I don't want to moulder away in the same old job for years and years.*

MOUNT

mounted, mounted, mounting

mount up

mount up

if the amount of something mounts up, it increases and becomes very large – use this especially about debts and costs: *The costs can quickly mount up when you buy your own home. | The national debt has continued to mount up, growing by $1 trillion since Clinton took office.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **build up**

MOUTH

mouthed, mouthed, mouthing

mouth off

mouth off

informal to give your opinion about something in a very loud and annoying way, often in order to criticize or complain about something or someone: *Some teenagers had started the trouble at the club, by mouthing off all the time.*

+ about/at *Nobody likes it when a player mouths off about an opponent.*

MOVE

moved, moved, moving

move ahead

1 **move ahead**

to start or make progress with something that you have planned to do: *Scientists can only move ahead if they win the agreement of a number of their colleagues.*

+ with *The committee is moving ahead with plans to help build a new stadium.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go ahead**

2 **move ahead**

if a plan or process moves ahead, it begins to happen or make progress, often after a pause or delay: *Zedillo's proposals for electoral reform are now moving ahead.*

3 **move ahead**

to make faster progress than someone or something else: *Our competitors have been moving ahead during a time of relatively poor progress for us.*

+ of *At that point the Republicans were moving ahead of the Democrats in the polls.*

move along

1 **move along**

if a story, game, process etc moves along, it develops well and makes good progress: *Meade's characters are first-rate and the story moves along so well it's hard to put the book down.*

2 **move** *sth* **along** **move along** *sth*

if someone or something moves a story, game, process etc along, they help it to develop well and make good progress: *The movie is full of lively dialogue that helps to move the action along.*

move things along (=make something develop or progress more quickly than before) *"Some delay is to be expected," the manager said, "but I'd like you to move things along now."*

3 **move along** **move** *sb* **along**

if you are asked to move along, or is someone moves you along, you are asked to leave a particular place and go somewhere else: *Move along, folks, move along there, please. | A policeman was now at the stage door, trying to move the crowd along.*

move away

move away

to leave the place where you live and go to live in a different area: *When Anna was nine the family moved away, and the children faced a strange school and strange people.*

+ from *I moved away from home to work in another town a year ago.*

move away from

move away from *sth*

to stop having a particular idea, method, habit etc and to begin to have a different one instead: *Fortunately jazz was slowly moving away from its reputation as old-guy music. | As our eating habits change, we are moving away from a calcium-rich diet of milk, cream and cheese.*

move in

1 **move in**

to begin living in a new house or apartment: *My parents helped us to buy furniture and carpets and things when we first moved in.*

● OPPOSITE: **move out**

2 **move in**

if one person moves in with another or two people move in together, they decide to live together and share a house or apartment

+ with *To save on expenses, Susan moved in with her mother in Solana Beach.*

+ together *Stephen and I had been seeing each other for a year when he suggested that we should move in together.*

3 **move in**

to go towards something or someone, often in order to attack them

+ on *Police moved in on Tiananmen Square, but still the number of protesters increased. | Two people started doing some Latin American dancing, and all the guests moved in to witness the spectacle.*

4 **move in**

to become involved in a particular business or activity and to start to influence or control the situation, often in an unfair way: *At that point the big multinationals moved in and started pushing up the prices.*

+ on *I decide to keep my business proposition a secret, so that other people couldn't move in on it.*

● COMPARE: **muscle in**

move into

1 **move into** *sth*

to begin living in a new house, apartment, or area: *Joyce was no longer living with his first wife, and had moved into a flat in Chelsea. | More and more foreigners seemed to be moving into the neighbourhood.*

2 **move into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to start to become involved in a particular area of activity or business: *Virgin tycoon Richard Branson is moving into computers. | The company specializes in motor insurance and has been so successful that it is now moving into household insurance too.*

● OPPOSITE: **move out of**

3 **move into** *sth*

if an army or team of people move into an area, they go there in order to deal with a particular situation, especially a dangerous or difficult one: *20,000 American troops began moving into Bosnia before Christmas. | Volunteer workers moved into the area to set up a water supply and committees of local people to run it.*

4 **move into** *sth*

to enter a new period of time: *The question is, 'What does it mean to be American as we move into the 21st century?' | The ambulance strike was moving into its eighth week.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **enter**

move off

move off

especially BrE to start moving in order to leave a place or to go somewhere: *They picked up their rucksacks and got ready to move off.*

+ towards/into/along etc *Kathy sipped her drink, then excused herself and moved off towards the ladies' room.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set off**

move on

1 **move on**

to leave a place after staying there for some time, in order to continue a journey or go somewhere new: *"Every five years I have to move on," Enrico said. "I just can't settle in one town."*

+ to *The exhibition attracted large crowds in New York, and then moved on to other cities on the eastern coast.*

2 **move on**

to stop thinking about something that you have been thinking about for some time, and begin thinking about or doing something new or different: *There's only one way to succeed. You have to learn from your mistakes and then move on.*

+ to *It's time to leave the theory behind, and move on to the practical side of the subject.*

3 **move on**

to leave your present job in order to do a new and better one: *I've been doing this job for five years now, so I think it's time to move on.*

+ from *Mac was lucky to move on from Lloyds Bank, where he'd been for seventeen years.*

4 **move on**

if people, ideas, methods etc move on, they become more modern or more advanced: *Has the legal profession moved on from those days? Perhaps not a great deal.* | *The world has moved on since Noel Coward wrote his plays, and some of the ideas seem ridiculously old-fashioned.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **progress**

5 **move** *sb* **on** | **move on** *sb*

if the police or someone in authority moves you on, they order you to leave a particular place: *It's no good just moving these homeless people on – where are they supposed to go?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **move along**

move out

1 **move out**

to stop living in a particular house, apartment or area, and go to live somewhere else: *"Actually," Rosemary whispered, "my husband has moved out. I don't know where he is."*

+ of *That year Nicholson moved out of London to the countryside, in order to write books and raise children.*

● OPPOSITE: **move in**

2 **move out**

AmE informal to leave: *Okay, kids, we've got to move out by 3:00 sharp.* | *He ordered the men to get ready to move out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **leave**

3 **move out**

if a vehicle moves out, it moves away from the side of the road in order to join the traffic or pass another vehicle: *Always look in the mirror before moving out.*

+ into *I watched him move out into the traffic heading back towards Boston.*

4 **move** *sb* **out** | **move out** *sb*

if someone in authority moves people out of a place, they arrange for them to leave or they make them leave: *Since the project finished, it has taken several years to move the navy out.* | *As the crisis continued, British diplomats were being moved out of the area.*

move out of

move out of *sth*

to stop being involved in a particular business, especially in order to become involved in a different one: *A lot of farmers are moving out of dairying, and looking for beef cattle instead.*

move over

1 **move over** USUALLY IN COMMANDS

if you ask someone to move over, you are asking them to change their position or seat so that there is space for you: *He walked round to the driver's side. "Move over," he said, "I'll drive."* | *I'm right on the edge of the bed. Are you sure you couldn't move over an inch or two?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **move up, scoot over** *AmE spoken informal*

2 **move over**

to start a new job after leaving one of a similar type or level

+ to *Susan Liss, now chief of staff to Deval Patrick is moving over to become chief of staff to Gore.*

+ from *Paul Roohani is now general manager of the hotel, moving over from the equivalent position he held at the New York Hilton.*

3 **move over**

to leave your job or position so that someone else can have it, especially someone younger or with new ideas: *My career is very important to me and I do not intend to move over for anyone else.* | *"I know I can win the tournament," Welshman Jackson said, "and it's time the Americans moved over."*

* SIMILAR TO: **step aside**

4 **move over**

especially BrE to start using a different system or method

+ to *Most companies have moved over to computer-aided design systems.*

move towards

move towards *sth*

to make it more likely that you will do or achieve something: *Europe is moving towards political and monetary union.*

move towards doing sth *Community councils are a way of moving towards involving local people in these difficult decisions.*

move up

1 **move up**

if you ask someone to move up, especially when they are standing or sitting in a row, you want them to move a little so that there is more space for you or other people: *Could you move up a bit – there's just room for Alec if you do.*

* SIMILAR TO: **move over**

2 **move up**

if you move up at work or at school, you get a better job or position, or go to a higher class or level

+ into/to *Many of the workers were able to move up into better paid, pleasanter and more skilled jobs.* | *By 1995, James too had moved up to the senior school.*

move up the ladder (=get a better job or position in society) *I could stay in this job all my life, but if I want to move up the ladder, I'll have to go elsewhere.*

3 **move** *sb* **up** | **move up** *sb*

if someone moves you up at work or at school, they give you a better job or position or move you to a higher class or level

+ into/to *Very soon after that, Matilda was moved up into the top class.*

4 **move up** | **move** *sb* **up** | **move up** *sb*

if soldiers or policemen move up or are moved up, they are sent to a particular position in order to be ready to act or attack: *The French troops in Saudi Arabia moved up to Hafar al-Batin.* | *The Russians moved troops up to the Turkish frontier.*

MOW

mowed, mown or mowed, mowing

mow down

1 **mow down** *sb/sth* | **mow** *sb/sth* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to kill someone by firing a lot of bullets at them: *The men were mown down as soon as they emerged from their trenches.* | *Captain Westmacott was mown down in a hail of M-60 machine-gun bullets.*

2 **mow** *sb* **down** | **mow down** *sb*

BrE to kill or seriously injure someone by driving into them in a vehicle either deliberately or because you are not controlling the vehicle properly: *The elderly couple were mown down yards from their home by 47-year-old Jill Gunns, who is believed to have had a row with her boyfriend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run over, knock down**

MUCK

mucked, mucked, mucking

muck about/around

1 **muck about/around**

BrE informal to behave in a silly way when you should be behaving sensibly: *Stop mucking about, Ben, and come and sit here!* | *I'd been mucking around with my mates so the teacher tried to kick me out of the classroom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*, **fool around** *AmE informal*

2 **muck about/around**

BrE informal to have fun by doing whatever you want to do, rather than doing anything organized: *We spent most of our time mucking around on the beach.* | *Pupils at Kensington infants' school are having a marvellous time just mucking about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*

3 **muck** *sb* **about/around**

BrE informal to make things difficult for someone or treat them badly, especially by changing your mind or plans a lot without considering them: *"You ought to be sorry for mucking your family around like that," said Patsy.* | *I'm sorry for mucking you around, but I can't make Friday after all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*

muck about/around with

muck about/around with *sth*

informal, especially BrE to touch something that is not yours, or to change something that does not need to be changed: *I wish you wouldn't muck about with the things in my room.* | *They're always mucking about with the bus timetables!*

muck in

muck in

BrE informal to share whatever work needs doing in order to help get it done, especially in a cheerful way: *The members of a family should share the domestic duties and muck in together. | Everybody mucked in and helped clean the place up.*

muck out

muck out **muck out** *sth*

muck *sth* **out**

BrE to clean the place where a horse or a farm animal lives: *There's a lot of hard work involved in having a horse – mucking out, feeding and grooming. | Charles spent a week working with a farmer – he even mucked out cattle yards and fed the pigs.*

muck up

1 **muck up** *sth* **muck** *sth* **up**

informal, especially BrE to spoil something, especially an arrangement or plan: *When Mark failed to turn up on time, it totally mucked up our plans. | Bob had got his own life sorted out by then, and he didn't want Jody coming back and mucking things up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *informal*

2 **muck up** *sth* **muck** *sth* **up**

informal, especially BrE to do something very badly, so that you fail to succeed or achieve something: *Lisa aimed the gun carefully, anxious not to muck up her second shot. | I was amazed when I got an 'A' in History. I thought I'd really mucked it up.*

muck-up N [C]
when someone does something badly or fails to do something: *I made a real muck-up of my French exam.*

3 **muck up** *sth* **muck** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to make something dirty or untidy: *Take those boots off or you'll muck up my clean floor. | I don't want to let the house to students – they'll only muck it up.*

MUDDLE

muddled, muddled, muddling

muddle along/on

muddle along/on

to live, work, or do something in a confused and not very successful way, especially without being properly organized or directed: *Students are often left to muddle along. The help they may need is not always available. | Some organizations are content to muddle along at quite a low level of performance.*

muddle through

muddle through **muddle through** *sth*

to succeed in doing or dealing with something even though you do not have a proper plan, or know exactly what you are doing: *Our survey found that most people do not know how to manage their money, and just muddle through. | We somehow managed to muddle through the crisis.*

muddle up

1 **muddle up** *sth/sb* **muddle** *sth/sb* **up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to make the mistake of thinking that something or someone is another thing or person: *Is his girlfriend Joanne or Joanna? I keep muddling them up.*

get sth/sb muddled up *One area's marked blue on the map, and the other's a dark purple – it's easy to get them muddled up.*

get muddled up *Sorry, I got a bit muddled up over the dates.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mix up**

2 **muddle** *sth* **up** **muddle up** *sth*

BrE to put something in the wrong order or to spoil the order that things are in: *Unfortunately my first and second names were muddled up on the examination certificate.*

get sth muddled up *If you had a proper filing system, you wouldn't get all your papers muddled up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mix up**

MUFFLE

muffled, muffled, muffling

muffle up

muffle *sb* **up** **muffle up** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to dress yourself in a lot of thick clothes in order to keep warm: *It was still very cold, and everyone was muffled up in coats and hats and gloves.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

MUG

mugged, mugged, mugging

mug up

mug up *sth* **mug** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to try to learn as much as you can about a subject in a short time, for example before an examination: *Bob wants to mug up as much as he can about Greece before we go there.*

+ on *Plan your revision carefully – it's no good trying to mug up on everything the night before.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swot up** *BrE informal*

MULL

mulled, mulled, mulling

mull over

mull over *sth* | **mull** *sth* **over**

to think about something carefully and for a long time, often in order to make a decision or form an opinion about something

mull it over *"I haven't taken a decision yet," Yeltsin told journalists. "I'm mulling it over, thinking." | I think you should take a couple of weeks to mull it over before you decide.*

● COMPARE: **weigh up, ponder** *formal*

MUSCLE

muscled, muscled, muscling

muscle in/into

muscle in | **muscle into** *sth*

to use your power, influence, or strength to become involved in something that other people, companies etc are involved in, when they do not want you to do this: *Insurance companies are worried that the big banks will muscle in and start taking away their business. | Continental companies are trying to muscle into the UK market.*

muscle in on sth *He accused them of muscling in on his territory.*

muscle in on the act (=muscle in on a particular business, activity etc that other people are already involved in, in a way that interferes with what they are doing) *Health foods are now big business, and some of the big food companies are muscling in on the act.*

muscle out

muscle out *sb* | **muscle** *sb* **out**

AmE to use your power and influence to force someone to leave a job or an area of business: *Banks are willing to cut fees to muscle out their competitors.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squeeze out**

MUSS

mussed, mussed, mussing

muss up

muss up *sth* | **muss** *sth* **up**

to make something untidy, especially hair or clothing: *She smiled sweetly, mussing up his hair as she knelt beside him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **ruffle up**

MUSTER

mustered, mustered, mustering

muster up

muster up *sth* | **muster** *sth* **up**

if you muster up courage, energy etc, you find enough of it to do something, especially something difficult: *Kim mustered up as much courage as she could, and stood up in front of the audience. | I don't think I can even muster up the energy to go out for a walk today.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **summon up**

M

N

N

NAFF

naff off

naff off!

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away because they are annoying you: *If he bothers you again, just tell him to naff off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go away, get lost** *informal*

NAIL

nailed, nailed, nailing

nail down

1 **nail down** *sth/sb* | **nail** *sth/sb* **down**

to make something final and definite, especially by getting other people to agree about specific details: *So far, we have been unable to nail down a date for the talks.* | *General Morillon is hoping to nail down a ceasefire agreement between the Serbs and the Muslims.*

nail sb down to sth (=make someone give you a definite decision or agreement about sth) *Before they start the work, nail them down to a price.*

2 **nail down** *sth* | **nail** *sth* **down**

to understand or describe something correctly or exactly, especially after thinking about it carefully for a long time: *It's taken me a long time to nail down the cause of the problem.* | *She had to use a dictionary to nail down the precise meaning of the word.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pin down**

nail up

nail up *sth* | **nail** *sth* **up**

to fasten a door, window etc with nails, in order to prevent it from being opened: *The door of the shed had been nailed up and the windows boarded over with plywood.*

NAME

named, named, naming

name after
ALSO **name for** *AmE*

name *sb/sth* **after** *sb/sth*

name *sb/sth* **for** *sb/sth*

to give someone or something the same name as another person, thing, or place: *When the child was born, we decided to name him after my father.* | *Mandela had become so famous that streets were named for him in cities all over the world.* | *They named the aircraft carrier the USS Nimitz, after Admiral Chester Nimitz.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **call after**

NARROW

narrowed, narrowed, narrowing

narrow down

narrow down *sth* | **narrow** *sth* **down**

to reduce the number of things you can consider or choose from, by getting rid of those that are not suitable: *There aren't many cars within your price range, so that narrows down your choice considerably.*

+ to *Police will continue to go through the list of suspects until they have narrowed it down to one.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reduce, whittle down**

NESTLE

nestled, nestled, nestling

nestle down/up

nestle down/up

to get into a warm and comfortable position, especially when you are sitting or lying on something soft or near to someone else: *Sally nestled up beside him on the sofa and waited for the programme to begin.* | *The children had already nestled down under the covers, ready for their bedtime story.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **snuggle down**

NIBBLE

nibbled, nibbled, nibbling

nibble at

nibble at *sth*

to eat something, taking very small bites: *Emma nibbled at a piece of toast in thoughtful silence.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **peck at, pick at**

nibble away at

nibble away at *sth*

to gradually reduce a large amount by taking smaller amounts from it: *All these expenses are nibbling away at our savings.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eat into**

N

NOD

nodded, nodded, nodding

nod off

nod off

to begin to sleep when you do not intend to, especially when you are sitting in a chair: *Old Tom had nodded off in front of the television.* | *I missed the end of her lecture – I think I must have nodded off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doze off** *informal*, **drop off** *informal*

NOSE

nosed, nosed, nosing

nose around ALSO nose about *BrE*

nose around/about

nose around/about *sth*

informal to look around a place trying to find out things about people in a way that annoys them: *I found him nosing about in my office, looking at the papers on my desk.* | *We don't want any private detectives nosing around the place.*

* SIMILAR TO: **poke around/about, snoop**

nose out

1 **nose out** *sth* **nose** *sth* **out**

to discover some information that someone else does not want you to discover: *It didn't take him long to nose out where the money was hidden.* | *The media always manage to nose out some interesting facts about a politician's past life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **uncover, find out, sniff out**

2 **nose out** *sb* **nose** *sb* **out**

to defeat someone by a very small amount in a race, competition etc: *Lynda Ramsden's horse, Tahitian, almost won, but was just nosed out by Cambrian in a photo finish.* | *Nike nosed out Adidas for the top spot among sports shoe manufacturers.*

NOTCH

notched, notched, notching

notch up

notch up *sth* **notch** *sth* **up**

to achieve something such as a victory, a number of points in a game, or a number of years in a particular job: *The Houston Astros have notched up another win.* | *the player who notched up 22 goals for us last season* | *Wright and Benson have each notched up 35 years of service with the firm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clock up** *especially BrE*, **chalk up**

NOTE

noted, noted, noting

note down

note down *sth* **note** *sth* **down**

to quickly write down information that you want to remember so that you can look at it again later: *Note down the dates and times of your exams.* | *I checked all the phone numbers and noted them down in my diary.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write down, jot down, make a note of**

NUMBER

numbered, numbered, numbering

number among

number *sb/sth* **among** *sth*

number among

formal to include someone or something among a particular group, or to be included in such a group: *a beautiful woman who numbered Zola among her many admirers* | *IBM and Hewlett Packard are numbered among Mentat's customers in the US.* | *Welsh numbers among the best of our young writers.*

number off

1 **number off**

BrE if soldiers number off, they call out their number one after the other while standing in a line: *When the cadets were ordered to line up and number off, it became apparent that someone was missing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count off** *AmE*

2 **be numbered off**

if the members of a group are numbered off, especially children, they are each given their own number, starting with the number one: *To start the game, the children stand in a semi-circle and are numbered off.*

NUZZLE

nuzzled, nuzzled, nuzzling

nuzzle up against/to

nuzzle up against/to *sb*

to gently press your nose or head against someone in a way that shows you like them: *David's dog, a black cocker spaniel, came and nuzzled up against me.*

O

OBJECT

objected, objected, objecting

object to

1 **object to** *sth/sb*

to disapprove of something or someone or to feel that something is wrong: *Most of the students strongly object to the new rules. | those members of the church who object to women priests | What I object to most is the way the book portrays African Americans.*

object to sb doing sth *I don't object to people smoking in the privacy of their own homes.*

2 **object to** *sth*

to say formally and officially that you oppose something or disapprove of it: *The Russian and Chinese delegates objected to the new American proposals.*

OCCUR

occurred, occurred, occurring

occur to

occur to *sb*

if an idea or a thought occurs to you, it comes into your mind: *It all seemed so simple – she wondered why the idea hadn't occurred to her before.*

+ that *It suddenly occurred to him that maybe his daughter was lying.*

+ to do sth *I suppose it never occurred to you to phone the police?*

OFFEND

offended, offended, offending

offend against

offend against *sth*

formal to do something that is wrong according to a rule or principle or according to what people feel is right: *If a priest has offended against Church law, he must be punished. | behaviour that offends against standards of common decency*

OFFER

offered, offered, offering

offer up

1 **offer up a prayer/a sacrifice etc**

to pray to God or give something to God: *Thomas knelt and offered up a silent prayer of thanksgiving.*

2 **offer up** *sth* | **offer** *sth* **up**

to show or suggest something to someone for them to consider, judge, or enjoy: *The annual exhibition is an occasion when young artists offer up their work for the critics to review. | a theory that offers up interesting possibilities about the origins of the universe*

* SIMILAR TO: **present**

OIL

oiled, oiled, oiling

oil up

oil up *sth* | **oil** *sth* **up**

to fill or cover something with oil: *Steve made a thorough inspection of the engine, oiled up the gearbox, and adjusted the brakes.*

OPEN

opened, opened, opening

open into

open into *sth*

if a room or door opens into another place, it leads directly into that other place: *The hallway opened into a large well-lit room. | At the bottom of the stairs was a door opening into the cellar.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead into**

open off

open off *sth*

if a room or area opens off another room or area you can enter one directly from the other: *The breakfast room opened off the kitchen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead off**

open onto

open onto *sth*

if a room, door, or window opens onto a place, you can enter or look out at that place directly from it: *Patio doors opened onto a sunlit garden. | The windows of our apartment opened onto the market square.*

open out

1 **open out**

if a road, path, valley etc opens out, it becomes wider or reaches a wide space: *Beyond Villeneuve the valley begins to open out and you can glimpse the sea in the distance.*

+ into *I followed the narrow drive until it opened out into a large paved courtyard.*

* SIMILAR TO: **widen**

O

2 **open out**

if a room opens out onto another place, the two areas are connected by doors or windows that you can open

+ onto *The hotel lounge opens out into a wide covered terrace.*

3 **open out** *sth* | **open** *sth* **out**

to unfold something and spread it into a wide shape: *Opening out the map he traced the line of the river with his finger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **unfold**

4 **open out**

if something that is folded or closed opens out, it can be unfolded and spread into a wide shape: *The film was speeded up so that you could see the flowers opening out in a few seconds.* | *The small plastic case opens out to reveal a keyboard and an 8-line display screen.* | *a large soaring bird with a broad tail that opens out like a Japanese fan*

5 **open out** *sth* | **open out**

BrE to begin to include a wider variety of things in a discussion, book, programme etc: *Ralph tried to open out the conversation. "Played much golf this season?" he asked.* | *What started as a specific issue involving one hospital has opened out into a full-scale debate about every aspect of the health service.*

open up

1 **open up** | **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

if a new shop, business etc opens up or is opened up, someone starts it: *Expensive restaurants and nightclubs were opening up all over the city.* | *It was 1946 when Siegel opened up the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start up**

● OPPOSITE: **close down**

2 **open up** | **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

if opportunities open up or a new situation opens them up, they become available or possible: *A whole new life was opening up before her.* | *A move to New York would open up all kinds of exciting possibilities.*

3 **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up** | **open up**

to make it easier for people travel to a country or area, or to increase the opportunities for business and development there: *They saw the new railroad as a means of opening up the far west of Canada.*

+ to *India was ready to open up to foreign investment.* | *MacBrayne's new ferry service has opened the island up to tourism.*

4 **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

to open something that is closed, locked, or covered: *He opened up his briefcase and took out a photograph.* | *The grave had been opened up and the body removed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **open**

5 **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

AmE to unfold something and spread it into a wide shape: *I opened up the map to try to find Milwaukee Avenue.*

6 **open up** | **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

to open the door of a building, especially by unlocking it, so that people can enter: *Open up! This is the police.* | *The janitor was the only person authorized to lock and open up the building.*

7 **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

to start a discussion or argument about a subject: *Diana's death opened up a debate about the future of the Royal Family.* | *When the report is published, it will probably open up the whole issue again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spark off**

8 **open up**

to start shooting, especially with a large gun: *As our troops moved forward, the enemy opened up with machine guns.*

* SIMILAR TO: **open fire**

9 **open up**

to stop being shy and say what you really think: *Once she knew she could trust me, Melissa started to open up.*

10 **open up a lead/gap**

if someone competing in a game or race opens up a lead or gap, they increase the number of points or the distance by which they are winning: *Minutes later the Australians scored again and opened up a 12 point lead.*

11 **open up** | **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

if a disagreement opens up, or if something opens up a disagreement between people, it starts to divide them: *A rift has opened up between the President and his political advisers.*

12 **open up** | **open up** *sth* | **open** *sth* **up**

if a hole, crack etc opens up, or if something opens it up, it appears and becomes wider: *In 1985 an earthquake struck the city and a 20 metre-deep crack opened up in the Plaza Mayor.*

13 **open up** *sb/sth* | **open** *sb/sth* **up**

to do a medical operation on a person or animal's body, by cutting it open: *The doctors said they'll have to open him up and remove the damaged tissue.*

OPPOSE

be opposed to

1 **be opposed to** *sth*

to disagree with something such as a plan, idea, or activity, and try to prevent it from happening or succeeding: *Many Americans were opposed to the war in Vietnam.*

be totally/violently/resolutely opposed to *Most Tory MPs were resolutely opposed to any change in the law on advertising.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be against**

2 **be opposed to** *sth*

if two ideas or opinions are opposed to each other, they are completely different from each other

be diametrically/directly opposed to sth *The principles of capitalism and communism are diametrically opposed to each other.* | *His evil ideas were directly opposed to those of a civilized culture.*

OPT

opted, opted, opting

opt for

opt for *sth*

to choose one thing or action instead of another, especially after thinking carefully about all the possibilities: *More and more British drivers are opting for Japanese cars.* | *an engineering graduate who finally opted for a career in teaching*

* SIMILAR TO: **choose, plump for** *informal, especially BrE*

opt in/into

opt in **opt into** *sth*

to decide to join a group or take part in a system: *If European Monetary Union proves a success, it is likely that Britain will opt in.*

● OPPOSITE: **opt out**

opt out

1 **opt out**

to decide not to join a group or take part in a system: *The company had its own pension plan, but individual employees were given the right to opt out.*

+ of *When the Baltic States opted out of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev was unwilling to stop them.*

● OPPOSITE: **opt in/into**

2 **opt out**

to avoid doing a job or accepting a duty, especially when this causes problems for other people: *From the first day they completely opted out, just sitting around while we did all the work.*

+ of *You can't simply opt out of all responsibility for the child.*

O

ORDER

ordered, ordered, ordering

order around ALSO order about *BrE*

order *sb* **around/about**

if someone orders you around, they keep telling you what to do in an annoying or threatening way, especially when they do not have the right to do this: *She's left her husband – she couldn't stand the way he kept ordering her about.* | *You've no right to order the children around like that.*

* SIMILAR TO: **boss around/about, push around/about**

order in

1 **order in** *sth* **order** *sth* **in**

especially AmE to order food that is ready to eat to be delivered to your home or office: *Gloria ordered in sandwiches from the deli.*

2 **order** *sb* **in** **order in** *sb*

to order soldiers or police to go into a place to deal with trouble: *When rioting broke out, Governor Wallace ordered the troops in.* | *Special police units were ordered in from outside the city to deal with the gangs.*

order off

order *sb* **off**

if a player is ordered off in a game of soccer, he is told to leave the field because of bad behaviour: *Four minutes from half-time Morgan was ordered off for punching another player.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

order out

order out

AmE to order food that is ready to eat to be delivered to your home or office: *Let's order out tonight.*

+ for *We ordered out for pizza and bought a bottle of Chianti.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send out for**

order up

1 **order up** *sth* **order** *sth* **up**

to ask for food or drinks to be brought to your hotel room: *I went back to my room and ordered up a light supper.*

2 **order up** *sth* **order** *sth* **up**

to order someone to send soldiers or weapons to the place where there is fighting: *Colonel Warner had already ordered up twelve rocket launchers.*

O

OWN

owned, owned, owning

own to

own to *sth*

old-fashioned to admit that something is true even though you are ashamed of it: *I will own to being a coward, but I am not a traitor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **admit**

own up

own up X

to admit that you have done something wrong, especially something that is not serious: *Unless the guilty person owns up, the whole class will be punished*

own up to (doing) sth *No one ever owned up to breaking the window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **confess, admit**

P

PACE

paced, paced, pacing

pace out/off

pace out/off *sth*

to measure a distance by walking with steps of equal length, and counting the number of steps: *The director paced out the length of the stage.* | *Jack paced off two hundred yards of the field and banged a post into the ground.*

● COMPARE: **measure out**

PACK

packed, packed, packing

pack away

1 **pack** *sth* **away** **pack away** *sth*

to put something back in the box, case etc where it is usually kept, after you have finished using it: *It's time to take down the Christmas decorations and pack them away.* | *We packed away the picnic things and got into the car.*

2 **pack away** *sth* **pack** *sth* **away**

informal to eat a large amount of food: *I could pack a meal away before the others had even found their napkins.* | *Billy can really pack it away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put away**

pack in

1 **pack in** *sth* **pack** *sth* **in**

informal to stop doing something, especially a job that you find unpleasant or annoying: *Geraint packed in his job and went travelling in Australia.*

pack it in/pack it all in *At times like this I feel like packing it all in. It's ridiculous the amount of work we're expected to do.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jack in** *BrE informal*, **quit**

2 **pack it in!**

BrE spoken informal used to tell someone to stop doing something that is annoying you: *"Susan just punched me!" "Well pack it in, both of you!"*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock it off!** *spoken informal*, **cut it out!** *spoken informal*

3 **pack** *sb* **in**

BrE to tell a boyfriend or girlfriend that you want to end the relationship: *He's always letting her down – I think she should pack him in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dump, finish with**

4 **pack** *sth* **in** **pack in** *sth*

to do a lot of different things, and visit a lot of different places in a short period of time: *Seven days isn't long for a holiday, but you can pack a lot in if you try hard.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cram in**

5 **pack** *sb* **in** **pack in** *sb*

if a film, play, performer etc packs people in, large numbers of people come to watch them: *Brad Pitt's latest film has packed in audiences across the country.* | *Dance-pop star Gloria Estefan is packing them in at the Oakland Coliseum.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

pack into

pack *sth* **into** *sth*

to do a lot of different things, and visit a lot of different places in a short period of time: *We managed to pack a lot into our two days in Paris.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cram in/into, fit in/into**

pack off

pack off *sb* **pack** *sb* **off**

to send someone to a place without asking them if they want to go, and without allowing them to refuse: *As soon as the children were old enough they were packed off to boarding school.*

+ to *Mrs Fraser packed me off to bed as soon as she saw I was ill.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

be packed out

be packed out

BrE if a place, meeting, concert etc is packed out, it is very full of people: *All the bars in Soho are packed out on a Friday night.*

+ with *Stratford is packed out with tourists in the summer.*

pack up

1 **pack up** **pack up** *sth* **pack** *sth* **up**

to put your things into bags, boxes etc, so that you can move them to another place: *She packed up her few belongings and left.* | *I didn't get to the exhibition until late, and people were already starting to pack up.*

2 **pack up**

to finish working or finish what you are doing at the end of a day: *If business stays slow, you can pack up early.* | *I think it's about time we packed up and went home.*

3 **pack up**

BrE informal if a machine packs up it stops working: *The bloody washing machine's packed up again!*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down**

PAD
padded, padded, padding

pad out

pad out *sth* | **pad** *sth* **out**

to make a piece of writing, speech or story longer by adding unnecessary words: *Concentrate on the relevant points – don't pad your essay out with waffle. | Unfortunately, 'Young Catherine' is a two-hour movie padded out to four.*

P

pad up

pad up | **pad** *sb* **up**

BrE to put on special clothes or equipment to protect yourself when playing a sport, especially cricket: *The players were in the changing room, padding up.*

PAGE
paged, paged, paging

page down

page down

to press a button on your computer so that you can see the next page of writing: *Page down until you get to the relevant information.*

● OPPOSITE: **page up**

page through

page through *sth*

AmE to turn the pages of a book, magazine etc, but not read it carefully: *Kathy paged through several magazines while waiting for her name to be called.*

* SIMILAR TO: **thumb through, glance through, flick through**

page up

page up

to press a button on your computer so that you can see the previous page of writing: *Can you page up, please? I'd like to look at the introduction.*

● OPPOSITE: **page down**

PAINT
painted, painted, painting

paint in

paint in *sth* | **paint** *sth* **in**

to fill a space in a picture or add more details to it using paint: *The figures on the side were painted in at a later date.*

paint out

paint out *sth* | **paint** *sth* **out**

to hide something that has been drawn or painted by covering it with paint: *Volunteers spent two hours picking up trash and painting out graffiti at Dolores Park.*

paint up

paint up *sth* | **paint** *sth* **up**

BrE to paint something so that it looks bright and attractive: *His van was painted up with pictures of dragons and warriors. | Fully painted up, the old plane now glinted in the sun.*

PAIR
paired, paired, pairing

pair off

1 **pair off**

if people in a group pair off, they start to have a romantic relationship: *Everyone else at the party had paired off, and I was left on my own.*

+ **with** *I went on holiday with some friends, but within a couple of days they had paired off with Spanish boys they met in a bar.*

2 **pair** *sb* **off**

especially BrE to try to get two people to start a romantic relationship with each other

+ **with** *My mother's always trying to pair me off with 'nice' young men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fix up**

3 **pair off** | **pair off** *sb* | **pair** *sb* **off**

if people in a group pair off or you pair them off, each person gets together with one other person to do a particular job or activity: *Could you all pair off and have a go at exercise 5?*

+ **with** *I was hoping I'd get paired off with Michael for the scriptwriting session.*

pair up

1 **pair up**

if two people pair up to do a particular job or activity, they get together to do it: *Johnson and Valenzuela paired up to write 'Memphis Time'.*

2 **pair** *sb* **up** | **pair up** *sb*

if you pair people up in a group, you make them do something together in groups of two

+ **with** *Miss Buge pairs up students who are doing well in her class with those who are having trouble.*

3 **pair up**

AmE if two people pair up, they start a romantic relationship: *Did Marty and Jessica pair up?*

+ with *I can't believe Amy has paired up with Mike! They are totally different people.*

PAL

palled, palled, palling

pal around

pal around

AmE informal to go to different places and do things with someone as a friend: *Joe Pesci and Danny Glover palled around New York while making their latest movie.*

+ with *We can pal around with my brother and his wife when they're not working.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chum around** *AmE informal*

pal up

pal up

BrE informal to become friends with someone for a short time, while you are doing something together: *She palled up with some other girls she met in the hotel and they went scuba diving together.*

PALM

palmed, palmed, palming

palm off

palm *sb* **off** | **palm off** *sb*

to give someone an explanation or excuse that is not true, but that you hope they will accept

+ with *Clark tried to palm her off with excuses about working late, but deep down she knew that he was having an affair.* | *Brooks accused the Prime Minister of palming off the British people with a phoney version of the truth.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fob off**

palm off as

palm *sth* **off as** *sth* | **palm off** *sth* **as** *sth*

to make people believe that something is better or more valuable that it really is, especially so that they will pay more for it: *Be careful, as some jewellers may try to palm off worthless bits of glass as diamonds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass off as**

palm off on

palm *sth* **off on** *sb* | **palm off** *sth* **on** *sb*

to get rid of something by giving or selling it to someone else, without telling them about its faults: *When Del discovered that the toys were faulty, he tried to palm them off on a bloke he met in the pub.* | *I've managed to palm that early morning class off on Mary – she's desperate for work.*

PAN

panned, panned, panning

pan out

1 **pan out**

if something that you have planned pans out, it happens or develops in a successful way: *If this trip doesn't pan out, I might go to Indonesia instead.*

2 **pan out**

the way something pans out is the way it develops or the way in which it happens: *"We're waiting to see how the negotiations pan out," DeSoto told reporters at the news conference.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

PANDER

pandered, pandered, pandering

pander to

pander to *sb/sth*

to do or provide what someone else wants, even though you know it is wrong, in order to get an advantage for yourself: *Even the quality newspapers pander to people's interest in the sex lives of politicians and television actors.* | *The government is accused of pandering to right-wing extremists, as it brings in new laws to restrict the rights of asylum seekers.*

PANT

pant for

pant for *sth*

informal to want something very much: *The group's first single was an instant hit – the sort of stuff that makes you pant for more.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gag for** *informal*

PAPER

papered, papered, papering

paper over

paper over *sth*

to try to hide the fact that there is a disagreement or problem because you do not want people to know about it, especially without much success: *The two parties tried to paper over their differences and form a government together.*

P

paper over the cracks *Hague tried to paper over the cracks after the leadership contest, but it was clear that the party was bitterly divided.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gloss over**

PARACHUTE

parachuted, parachuted, parachuting

parachute in

parachute in *sb* | **parachute** *sb* **in**

to bring someone to work in a place or organization where they have not worked before, especially when this is very sudden and annoys the people who live or work there – used especially in news reports: *Welsh people were annoyed when their local Labour candidate was rejected by the party, and a new candidate was parachuted in from London.*

PARCEL

parcelled, parcelled, parcelling BrE
parceled, parceled, parceling AmE

parcel out

parcel out *sth* | **parcel** *sth* **out**

to divide or share something among several people: *He parcels out the work to team members according to their areas of expertise.* | *Much of the best land in Egypt was parcelled out among rich landowners.*

* SIMILAR TO: **share out**

parcel up

1 **parcel up** *sth* | **parcel** *sth* **up**

BrE to wrap something with paper, string etc so that you can send it somewhere by post: *She left her name and address so that the books could be parcelled up and sent to her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up, box up**

2 **parcel up** *sth* | **parcel** *sth* **up**

BrE to divide something into separate parts, especially an area of land or a large company: *The British parcelled up Africa with the help of the other Europeans, and straight lines were drawn on maps to represent the borders of countries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **divide up**

PARE

pared, pared, paring

pare away/off

pare away/off *sth* | **pare** *sth* **away/off**

to remove part of something, especially part of a debt: *Engelhard Corporation said the restructuring and sale of businesses would pare away 35 percent of its debt.* | *Borrowers can choose to repay the loan with 3 or 5 per cent pared off their monthly repayments.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trim down**

pare back

pare back *sth* | **pare** *sth* **back**

to reduce something, especially in order to save money: *In Mountain View School District, art programs have been pared back but not eliminated.* | *Several Japanese companies have dramatically pared back their manufacturing investments this year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut back**

pare down

pare down *sth* | **pare** *sth* **down**

to reduce the size of something, by getting rid of what you do not need: *An editor helped Seth to pare the book down to a readable length.* | *It is likely the company will continue to pare down its workforce over the next few years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trim down, cut back**

pared-down ADJ ONLY BEFORE NOUN
reduced in size: *The Senate Foreign Relations Committee accepted a pared-down version of the bill on Wednesday.*

PARLAY INTO

parlayed, parlayed, parlaying

parlay into

1 **parlay** *sth* **into** *sth*

AmE formal to use something that you already have in order to get a new opportunity or make a lot of money: *Liz Taylor will be able to parlay one perfume into millions of pounds.*

2 **parlay into** *sth*

AmE formal to develop in a way that gives someone an advantage or opportunity: *Her success on the university volleyball team could parlay into an invitation to try out for the U.S. Olympic team.*

* SIMILAR TO: **develop (into)**

PART

parted, parted, parting

be parted from

be parted from *sb/sth*

especially BrE to be separated from someone or something: *My parents were hardly ever parted from each other in thirty years of marriage.* | *At age 4, Becky refused to be parted from her purple dress even long enough for it to be washed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be separated (from)**

part with

part with | *sth/sb* | NOT PASSIVE

to give or sell something to someone else, when you do not really want to: *She took the gun from Jack, who parted with it reluctantly.* | *Retail stores will have to work hard this season to persuade shoppers to part with their money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

● OPPOSITE: **hold onto/hold on to**

PARTAKE

partook, partaken, partaking

partake in

partake in | *sth*

formal to take part in an activity or event: *At least 200 kids were there, ready to partake in the annual Giants baseball camp.* | *Jennifer will come back to her parents' house to partake in the Christmas festivities.*

* SIMILAR TO: **participate in, take part in, partake of** *formal*

partake of

1 **partake of** | *sth*

formal or humorous to eat or drink something, especially something that is offered to you: *Because many of the resort's guests are Japanese, you can partake of miso soup, raw fish and steamed rice for breakfast.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have**

2 **partake of** | *sth*

formal to take part in an activity or event: *Organized children's activities will keep the kids happy while you partake of exercise classes or card games.*

* SIMILAR TO: **participate in, take part, partake in** *formal*

3 **partake of** | *sth*

old-fashioned if something partakes of a particular quality, it has some of that quality in it: *He has a confident manner that partakes of arrogance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smack of**

PARTITION

partitioned, partitioned, partitioning

partition off

partition off | *sth*   **partition** | *sth* | **off**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to separate one area from another area using a thin wall, glass, furniture etc: *The foreman's office was partitioned off from the rest of the factory, and through the window he could see the men at work on the machines.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate, divide off**

PARTNER

partnered, partnered, partnering

partner up
ALSO **partner off** *especially BrE*

partner up/off   **partner** | *sb* | **up/off**

to join with someone in order to do something together, such as play a game or dance, or to make someone do this: *Sam and I partnered up for our club's tennis tournament.*

+ with *Ezra partnered off with Dana, and we began the game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pair up, pair off**

P

PASS

passed, passed, passing

pass around
ALSO **pass round** *BrE*

1 **pass around/round** | *sth*

pass | *sth* | **around/round**

to give something to one person in a group for them to give to the next person, until everyone has had it: *Write your name on this list then pass it round.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass on**

2 **pass** | *sth* | **around/round**

pass around/round | *sth*

to offer something to each person in a group: *Carla brought some cakes in and passed them around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand around**

pass as

1 **pass as** | *sb*

to make other people think that you are a type of person that you are not, because you look or seem so much like that type

sb could pass as sb *With my hair cut short I could have passed as a boy.* | *Paul's an athletic-looking guy who could easily pass as a gym teacher.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass for**

2 **pass as** | *sth*

if one thing passes as another, it is called or considered the second thing even though it is not – used when you do not approve of something: *chocolate-covered granola bars that pass as healthy snacks*

what passes as (=what is called or considered) *The houses had no bathrooms, and what passed as running water came through garden hoses.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass for**

P

pass away

1 **pass away**

formal to die – use this when you want to be very polite and avoid using the word 'die': *Colonel Tom Parker passed away last week at the age of 87. | John Hewitt had been ill for some time, and passed away peacefully on 12 April.*

* SIMILAR TO: **die, pass on**

2 **pass away**

formal to slowly disappear or stop existing: *We pray that this threat of war may quickly pass away.*

3 **pass away**

when a period of time passes away, it finishes: *Day after day passed away, but still we heard nothing from Kendall.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go by**

4 **pass away** *sth* **pass** *sth* **away**

if you pass a period of time away, you spend time doing something so that you are not bored, especially when you are waiting for something else to happen: *The old men sit outside cafes, and play cards to pass the time away. | I tried to pass away the time by reading a magazine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **while away**

pass between

1 **pass between** *sb*

if a look passes between two people, they look at each other quickly in a way that shows they have the same feeling or thought: *A look of disgust passed between Jim and his wife. | He saw a quick glance pass between Joanna and Helen, and wondered if they knew his secret.*

2 **pass between** *sb*

if something passes between people, they talk to each other: *"Did she say anything about the letter?" "Why should I tell you anything that passed between us, Mr Barnet?" | Many sceptical remarks passed between the lips of the girls in Loreto College.*

not a word passes between sb (=they do not speak to each other) *Hardly a word passed between them for the rest of the journey.*

pass by

1 **pass by** **pass by** *sb/sth*

to go past someone or something without stopping: *The express train passed by with a deafening noise. | The dog likes to sit in the front garden and bark at anyone who passes by our house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go by, go (past)**

passer-by N [C]

someone who is walking past when something such as a crime or accident happens in then street: *The fire was reported by a passer-by who saw flames coming from the six-storey complex.*

2 **pass** *sb* **by**

if an event passes you by, it happens without your noticing it much or being affected by it: *My mother lived in a remote village, and all the excitement of the 1960s passed her by. | On the whole, the war passed us by in Baldersdale, although we had to put up black-out curtains in the windows.*

3 **pass** *sb* **by**

if an opportunity passes you by, you fail to take it when it is available

let a chance/opportunity pass sb by *He'll never forgive himself for letting the opportunity of a lifetime pass him by.*

life/the world passes you by (=you fail to get any advantage form the opportunities that life offers) *Life can easily pass by if you don't reach out and grab it.*

● COMPARE: **miss out**

4 **pass by** **pass by** *sth*

to go near a place on the way to another place, especially by chance: *If you pass by a store, could you please pick up some milk? | Come in and see us if you happen to be passing by.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go by**

pass down

pass down *sth* **pass** *sth* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to give or teach something to people who are younger than you or live after you: *The people of the village perform musical dramas which have been passed down through the generations.*

+ to *Grandma Yager passed down to her children and grandchildren a love for reading all kinds of books.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand down, pass on**

pass for

1 **could pass for** *sb*

to make other people think you are a type of person that you are not, because you look or seem so much like that type

sb could pass as sb *The Mitchell brothers could easily pass for twins. | If you grow your hair any longer, you could pass for a girl.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass as**

2 | **pass for** *sth* |

if one thing passes for another, it is called or considered the second thing even though it is not – used when you do not approve of something: *some of the rubbish that passes for music in the popular charts these days | Chinese students said they found it difficult to eat what passes for Asian cooking in the UK.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pass as**

pass off

1 | **pass off peacefully/well** |

BrE if an event passes off peacefully or well, it is peaceful or a success: *Today's demonstration passed off peacefully, as 5000 people gathered in the capital's main square. | The party had passed off rather well, he thought.*

2 | **it passes off** |

BrE spoken if the effects of an illness pass off, they disappear: *"You're shivering! Have you seen a doctor?" "No, I'm sure it'll pass off."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **disappear**

pass off as

1 | **pass** *sth* **off as** *sth* |

to make people believe that something is better or more valuable then it really is, especially so that they will pay more for it: *Keating painted in various styles and passed them off as originals, making a lot of money in the process.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **palm off as**

2 | **pass yourself off as** *sb* |

to make people think that you are someone that you are not, especially in order to deceive them: *Kavitz plays someone who manages to survive the war by passing himself off as a German soldier.*

3 | **pass off** *sth* | | **pass** *sth* **off** |

to ignore something, especially a remark, or pretend it is not very serious, because you do not want it to hurt you

+ as *Laughing lightly, Claire passed it off as a joke. | Jennings tried to pass off Hardy's comments as insignificant, but inside he was furious.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shrug off**

pass on

1 | **pass** *sth* **on** | | **pass on** *sth* |

to tell someone a piece of information that someone else has told you: *If I get any news, I'll pass it on. | I left a message with one of her colleagues, but it didn't get passed on.*

+ to *It was discovered that he had been passing secrets on to the Russians whilst working at the Pentagon.*

2 | **pass** *sth* **on** | | **pass on** *sth* |

to give something, especially a disease or special quality to your children, so that they are born with it

+ to *Older mothers have a higher risk of passing genetic disorders on to their children. | Robin had been a pretty good football player in his youth – a talent that he seems to have passed on to his son.*

3 | **pass** *sth* **on** | | **pass on** *sth* |

to give something such as land or a house to someone younger than you, especially your child, after your death

+ to *Paul bought the land hoping that one day he could pass it on to his son.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hand down, pass down, leave to**

4 | **pass on** *sth* | | **pass** *sth* **on** |

to teach a skill, knowledge, tradition etc to someone younger than you so that they will have it or know it too

+ to *It is only natural for immigrant parents to pass on their native language to their children.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hand down**

5 | **pass** *sth* **on** | | **pass on** *sth* |

to give an illness or disease to someone else: *The infected person may suffer no ill health from his disease but is still capable of passing it on to others. | There is no evidence that the virus can be passed on to another person through air or water.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give, transmit** *formal*

6 | **pass on** |

to die – use this when you want to be very polite and avoid using the word 'die': *Marty passed on before his grandchildren were born.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **die, pass away**

7 | **pass** *sth* **on** | | **pass on** *sth* |

to give something to someone else, after you have had it or finished with it first: *Take a cookie and pass the rest on.*

pass on to

1 | **pass** *sth* **on to** *sb* | | **pass on** *sth* **to** *sb* |

if companies pass on higher or lower costs to their customers, they charge more or less for their goods and services according to how much their own costs increase or decrease: *Supermarkets buy large quantities of produce at reduced prices, and then pass these savings on to their customers.*

2 | **pass** *sb* **on to** *sb* | | **pass on** *sb* **to** *sb* |

to suggest to someone that they should speak to another person, because you think that person will be able to help them: *A woman rang up wanting to know about creative writing courses, so I passed her on to the English department.*

3 **pass on to** *sth*

BrE to start talking about a new subject: *We haven't got much time, so let's pass on to item two on the agenda.*

* SIMILAR TO: **move on**

pass out

1 **pass out**

to become unconscious, usually for a short time: *Kevin drank so much vodka that he passed out on the stairs. | Firemen rescued the two workers who had passed out after breathing in smoke.*

* SIMILAR TO: **black out**

2 **pass out** *sth* | **pass** *sth* **out**

to give something to each person in a group: *Jose put on a Santa hat and passed out candy canes to the children. | Volunteers have been passing out food to the 100 people who have lost their homes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand out, give out, distribute**

3 **pass out**

BrE to finish a course of study at a military school or police college: *He passed out of flying school in 1931, and flew with Bomber Command.*

pass over

1 **pass over** *sth*

to deliberately not discuss a particular subject or deal with a particular problem: *Many textbooks pass over upsetting details about the war. | Let's pass over the budget matter for now, and go on to talk about our new projects. | Less serious crimes such as vandalism are passed over, as police struggle to maintain order in this deprived part of the city.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore**

2 **pass** *sb* **over** | **pass over** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are passed over for a job, you do not get it because someone else in the same organization who is less experienced is chosen instead of you, and you think that this is unfair: *Johnson claimed that she was unfairly passed over in favor of a man, and accused the company of sexism.*

be passed over for promotion *Three black officers claim they have been passed over for promotion because of racial prejudice.*

pass to

pass to *sb*

formal if something passes to you, you become the owner of it, or you become responsible for it: *If you die without making a will, your property will usually pass to your spouse and children. | According to the Treaty, control of the canal passes to Panama in the year 2000.*

pass up

pass up *sth* | **pass** *sth* **up** OFTEN NEGATIVE

to not take an opportunity when it becomes available: *They're offering me a fantastic salary, so I'd be crazy to pass it up.*

pass up a chance/opportunity (to do sth) *William couldn't pass up the opportunity to work in Hollywood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn down**

PAT

patted, patted, patting

pat down

pat *sb* **down** | **pat down** *sb*

AmE *informal* to search someone, especially in order to check if they are carrying a dangerous weapon, illegal drugs etc: *A security guard was patting him down at the airport when he found traces of cocaine in one of his pockets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **frisk**

PATCH

patched, patched, patching

patch together

patch together *sth*

patch *sth* **together**

to make or arrange something quickly and carelessly from several different parts or ideas: *A new plan was quickly patched together. | Bosnia had to patch together an army, sending soldiers to the front with no formal training, and little more than hunting rifles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cobble together**

patch up

1 **patch up** *sth* | **patch** *sth* **up**

if you patch up a relationship or argument with someone, you stop arguing with them and agree to be friendly with each other: *Mindy wanted to patch up her marriage after a year of separation.*

patch things up *Claire and Jeremy patched things up between them, and now they're getting married.*

patch up your differences *Aragon agreed to meet with Campbell to try to patch up their differences.*

2 **patch up** *sth* | **patch** *sth* **up**

to repair something by adding a piece of material to it, instead of replacing it with a new one: *We can patch these curtains up and make them look almost new. | They patched up the roof – they couldn't afford a new one.*

3 **patch up** *sth* | **patch** *sth* **up**

to give quick and basic medical treatment to someone who is hurt: *Liam fell and hurt his knee, and was sent to the school nurse to patch it up.*

PATTERN

patterned, patterned, patterning

pattern after/on

pattern after/on *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to design or make something in a way that is copied from something else: *The new health care plan is patterned on the Medicare program. | Hilger's films have been patterned after her own life experiences.*

* SIMILAR TO: **model on/upon, base on**

PAVE

paved, paved, paving

pave over

pave over *sth*

to cover a path, road etc with a hard level surface: *Builders have paved over or developed 800,000 acres of open land in the Hayes Valley. | Two years ago this area was paved over to make an expressway to the airport.*

PAW

pawed, pawed, pawing

paw at

1 **paw at** *sth*

if an animal paws at something, it touches or rubs it again and again with its paws (=feet) *Buster kept pawing at my legs and trying to jump up on my lap. | The horse pawed at the fence, trying to reach the oats on the other side.*

2 **paw at** *sb*

to keep touching someone in a rough or sexual way which is very annoying or offensive: *All the guys at the party were completely drunk and pawing at the women. | The kids pawed at me all at once, each one trying to get more attention than the others.*

PAY

paid, paid, paying

pay back

1 **pay** *sb/sth* **back** | **pay back** *sb/sth* | **pay** *sb* **back** *sth*

to give someone the money that you owe them: *Send me the money for a plane ticket home and I'll pay you back, okay, Mom? | I have ten years to pay back my student loans. | Did I pay you back that £5?*

* SIMILAR TO: **repay**

2 **pay** *sb* **back**

to do something unpleasant to someone as a punishment, because they have done something unpleasant to you

+ for *Mrs Ruslik vowed to find her daughter's killer and pay him back for what he did.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get back**

pay for

pay for *sth*

to suffer or be punished for something you have done: *We must make criminals pay for their crimes. | I've paid dearly for mistakes I've made, and tried to learn something from them too.*

pay in/into

pay *sth* **in** | **pay in** *sth*

pay *sth* **into** *sth*

to put money in your bank account or a savings plan: *Did you remember to pay that cheque in? | I paid $250 into my savings account.*

pay off

1 **pay off** *sth* | **pay** *sth* **off**

to pay all the money you owe someone: *Mendez is working overtime to pay off his debts. | Two years after the accident, the Thompsons have finally paid off their son's hospital bills.*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle**

2 **pay off**

if something that you do pays off, it is successful or worth doing: *The band's dedication and practice finally paid off when their single made it to number 1 in the charts. | They took a hell of a risk, but it really paid off in the end.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be worth it, pay dividends**

payoff N [C]
informal an advantage or good result you get from something you do: *Managers need to ensure that expensive, long-term projects have an adequate payoff.*

3 **pay** *sb* **off** | **pay off** *sb*

to give someone money so they will not tell other people about something, especially something illegal or dishonest: *Police are still trying to figure out who paid Trebble off. | City leaders have been accused of paying off people who want to file complaints.*

* SIMILAR TO: **buy off**

payoff N [C]
informal a payment that you make to someone secretly or illegally in order to stop

them from causing you any trouble: *Our main witness is refusing to talk – the gang must have threatened her, or given her a payoff.*

4 **pay** *sb* **off** **pay off** *sb*

especially BrE to stop employing a worker after paying them the wages that you owe them: *Fife's biggest firm of solicitors has been forced to pay off the staff because of the recession. | Although the engineering firm paid off 90 workers, 700 other jobs have been saved.*

● COMPARE: **lay off**

payoff N [C]
informal a payment that you make to someone when you make them leave their job, especially very large sums of money paid to company directors: *Diller received an incredible £15 million payoff after he was forced to resign earlier this year.*

pay out

1 **pay out** *sth* **pay** *sth* **out**

to pay money to someone because they are owed it, or have earned it, or won it: *$6 million of prize money is paid out every week. | I'm still waiting for the insurance company to pay out.*

payout N [C]
a sum of money paid to someone because they are owed it, or have earned it, or won it: *A $50,000 payout on the insurance policy was to be shared by CenTrust and PaulCo.*

2 **pay out** **pay out** *sth*

to spend a lot of money on something, especially when you do not want to: *I'm sick of paying out all this money on rent. | Why pay out £300 for a dress, when you're never going to wear it again?*

* SIMILAR TO: **spend, fork out** *informal*, **shell out** *informal*

3 **pay out** *sth* **pay** *sth* **out**

formal to slowly unwind a piece of rope: *Lance paid out the line, and we secured the boat to the dock.*

pay over

pay over *sth* **pay** *sth* **over**

to make an official payment of money to someone

+ to *Clancy's share of the inheritance was paid over to him.*

pay up

pay up

to pay money that you owe, especially when you do not want to: *In most cases, Fadely said, people pay up in response to the overdue notice. | I've lost my credit card. Will I have to pay up if someone uses it?*

* SIMILAR TO: **cough up** *informal*

paid-up ADJ
a paid-up member is someone who has paid the money necessary to join a club, political party etc: *a paid-up member of the Labour Party*

PEAL

pealed, pealed, pealing

peal out

peal out

literary to make a loud sound which can be heard a long distance away – use this about bells ringing: *The bells pealed out all over the Palace of Westminster.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ring out**

PECK

pecked, pecked, pecking

peck at

1 **peck at** *sth*

if a bird pecks at something, it tries to eat it with its beak: *Two geese were pecking at some grain in the farmyard.*

2 **peck at** *sth*

to eat only a small part of your meal, because you are not very hungry: *Lady Lassiter pecked at her food for a few minutes and then pushed her plate to one side.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick at, nibble at**

PEE

peed, peed, peeing

● **Pee** is a rather rude word and some people are offended by it.

pee down

it's peeing down

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very heavily. This is a rude expression and some people are offended by it.: *As soon as we got out of the car it started peeing down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **it's pouring down, it's chucking (it) down** *BrE spoken informal*

PEEL

peeled, peeled, peeling

peel off

1 **peel off** *sth* **peel** *sth* **off**

to take off clothes, especially when they are wet or tight: *Christina went upstairs to her*

bedroom, peeled off her sticky clothes, and jumped into a cool shower.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take off**

2 **peel off** | **peel off** *sth*

if something peels off, it comes away from a surface in small pieces – use this especially about paint or dry skin: *Paint was peeling off the faded white walls.* | *My suntan had all peeled off by the time we got home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **flake off**

3 **peel off** *sth* | **peel** *sth* **off**

to remove the outside layer from the surface of something: *Boil the potatoes and then peel off the skins.* | *The old Indian took some chewing gum out of his pocket, and began to peel off the wrapper.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take off**

4 **peel off**

to move away from the group that you have been walking or travelling with, and go in a different direction: *Two soldiers peeled off to the left and saluted the Queen.*

5 **peel off** *sth* | **peel** *sth* **off**

to take some money from a thick pile of paper money that you are holding: *The man peeled off two bank notes from the roll in his pocket.*

PEG

pegged, pegged, pegging

peg away

peg away

BrE informal to work hard at something that is very difficult and takes a long time to get a good result

+ at *The South African team kept pegging away at Australia, and managed to get them all out for 230 runs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slog away** *BrE informal*, **plug away** *informal*

peg out

1 **peg out** *sth* | **peg** *sth* **out**

BrE to fasten clothes or sheets to a line outside, so that they dry: *Can you help me peg these sheets out?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hang out**

2 **peg out** *sth* | **peg** *sth* **out**

to fasten something to the ground using small metal or wooden sticks: *Place the tent on the ground and peg out the four corners.*

3 **peg out**

BrE old-fashioned informal to die – used especially humorously: *It was so hot in there – I thought I was going to peg out in the heat.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **die**

PELT

pelted, pelted, pelting

pelt down

it's pelting down

informal used to say that it is raining very heavily: *It's been pelting down all morning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **it's pouring down**

PEN

penned, penned, penning

pen in

1 **feel penned in**

if you feel penned in, you feel that you are too limited by the situation that you are in, and cannot do what you want: *Leonora was fed up with her life in England. She felt bored and penned in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **trapped, be hemmed in**

2 **pen in** *sth/sb* | **pen** *sth/sb* **in**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to shut animals or people in an enclosed area so that they cannot escape: *The sheep were penned in for the night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pen up**

pen up

pen up *sth/sb* | **pen** *sb/sth* **up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to shut animals or people in an enclosed area so that they cannot escape: *He kept his victims penned up in his garage.* | *The bull was dangerous and had to be penned up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pen in**

PENCIL

pencilled, pencilled, pencilling BrE
penciled, penciled, penciling AmE

pencil in

pencil *sb/sth* **in** | **pencil in** *sb/sth*

to make an arrangement for someone to do something or something to happen, which is not definite and which may be changed later: *He has a meeting penciled in with the Japanese Prime Minister in May.*

+ for *I'll pencil you in for next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.*

PENSION

pensioned, pensioned, pensioning

pension off

1 **pension** *sb* **off** | **pension off** *sb*

to arrange for someone to stop working and receive a pension, because they are old, ill, or

no longer needed. A pension is money that people receive each month from a company or the government after they have stopped working: *The Defence Ministry pensioned off 750 officers including 10 generals* | *In traditional societies the elders directed the affairs of the tribe; in Western societies, the elderly are usually pensioned off.*

2 **pension** *sth* **off** **pension off** *sth*

especially BrE to get rid of something that you have been using for a long time because it is no longer useful: *The old cruise ship was finally pensioned off and spent the rest of her days as a floating hotel.* | *Coal-fired power stations are being pensioned off and replaced by gas-fired ones, which are less harmful to the environment.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **to do away with, get rid of**

P

PEP

pepped, pepped, pepping

pep up

1 **pep up** *sth* **pep** *sth* **up**

to make something more exciting, interesting or more effective: *Adding a little chili powder helps pep up the flavour.* | *Recently the long-running TV drama series has been losing viewers, and scriptwriters have tried to pep it up by introducing some new characters.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **liven up, spice up**

2 **pep up** *sb* **pep** *sb* **up**

to give someone more energy and make them feel less tired: *Some aromatherapy oils help you relax, and others pep you up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **perk up**

PEPPER

peppered, peppered, peppering

pepper with

1 **pepper** *sth* **with** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to include a lot of a particular type of words or phrases in a book, speech etc: *The script, by Frank Clarke, is peppered with four-letter words and modern slang.* | *Her early school reports were peppered with comments such as 'Margaret has a very active imagination' and 'Margaret must learn not to go off into a day-dream'.*

pepper sth with sth (=use a lot of a particular type of language in a book, speech etc) *Mussolini peppered his speeches with slogans.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sprinkle (with)**

2 **be peppered with** *sth*

if something is peppered with smaller things, there are a lot of the smaller things all over it: *The mountainside was steep and peppered with yellow bushes.* | *He had thick black hair, peppered with grey.*

3 **pepper** *sb/sth* **with** *sth*

to fire a lot of bullets or throw a lot of things at someone or something: *Anyone who tried to resist was swiftly peppered with a hail of bullets.*

PERK

perked, perked, perking

perk up

1 **perk up** **perk** *sb* **up** **perk up** *sb*

to become more cheerful, interested, or have more energy, or to make someone feel like this: *Their faces seemed to perk up a little when she mentioned the subject of money.* | *I like to start the day with a cup of coffee. It helps to perk me up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **liven up**

2 **perk up** **perk up** *sth* **perk** *sth* **up**

to improve and become more interesting or exciting, or to make something do this: *A run round the park every day can perk up your sex life.* | *The housing market is starting to perk up, and prices have been rising steadily.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **liven up, pep up**

PERMIT

permitted, permitted, permitting

permit of

permit of *sth*

formal to make it possible for something to happen: *His present financial situation did not permit of marriage to a woman of Lady Sarah's rank.* | *Much of the area is mountainous, with only around one-fifth permitting of cultivation.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **enable**

PERTAIN

pertained, pertained, pertaining

pertain to

pertain to *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

formal to be directly connected with a particular subject, event, or person: *In matters pertaining to the soul, woman does not differ from man.* | *Five of the charges pertained to the torture and murder of political prisoners.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be connected with, be concerned with, relate to**

PETER

petered, petered, petering especially spoken

peter out

1 **peter out**

if something peters out, there is gradually less and less of it, or it becomes gradually less and less strong, until it stops completely: *The rain will peter out later on in the day. | Our conversation began to peter out and I was struggling to think of anything to say. | Eventually the clapping petered out and people got up to leave the concert hall.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fizzle out** *informal*

2 **peter out**

if a path or road peters out, it gradually becomes narrower and less clear, until it ends completely: *As they went further into the forest, the path gradually petered out. | The street petered out into a country lane.*

PHASE

phased, phased, phasing

phase in

phase in *sth* **phase** *sth* **in**

to gradually introduce something such as a new system or product: *The new taxes will be phased in over a three-year period. | Future plans include the phasing in of alternative sources of energy such as wind farms and solar panels.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring in**

phase out

phase out *sth* **phase** *sth* **out**

to gradually stop using something such as a system or product: *The old trains will gradually be phased out over the next 18 months. | His party is already committed to phasing out nuclear power stations. | Greenpeace is urging governments to speed up the phasing out of ozone-destroying chemicals*

PHONE

phoned, phoned, phoning

phone around ALSO phone round *BrE*

phone around/round

phone around/round *sb*

to telephone several people, companies etc especially in order to find out about something: *Branson spent a frantic evening phoning around friends until he found her. | Why don't you phone around and see if you can get a better price somewhere else?*

* SIMILAR TO: **ring round/around** *BrE*, **call around** *especially AmE*

phone back

phone back **phone** *sb* **back**

phone back *sb*

to telephone someone for a second time or after they have telephoned you: *The woman said she'd phone back straightaway. | To my surprise, he phoned me back a few days later, and offered me the job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call back** *spoken*, **ring back** *BrE spoken*, **return sb's call**

phone for

phone for *sth* **phone** *sb* **for** *sth*

to telephone someone and ask them to provide you with something or send you something: *She phoned for a taxi, which arrived 20 minutes later. | Group bookings available, phone for details.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call for**

phone in

1 **phone in**

BrE to telephone a television or radio company in order to talk during a programme or give your opinions about something: *When 'Brookside' showed Barry Grant kicking a dog, hundreds of viewers phoned in to complain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call in, ring in** *BrE*

phone-in/phone-in programme N [C]
a radio or television programme in which people telephone the programme to give their opinions, or ask or answer questions: *Julian is currently hosting his own phone-in programme, 'Intimate Contact With Julian Clary'. | A gentleman from Peebles called our phone-in to ask for help with whitefly on his lettuces.*

2 **phone in**

to telephone an organization such as the police, a hospital, or your place of work in order to report or ask about something: *Someone phoned in to the hospital to report the accident. | A man called Dario Carella phoned in claiming to have seen one of the suspected terrorists.*

phone in sick (=telephone your company to say that you are ill and cannot come to work) *I felt awful, so I phoned in sick and went straight to bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call in, ring in** *BrE*

phone round

SEE **phone around**

P

phone through

phone through *sth* | **phone** *sth* **through**

phone through

to telephone someone to give them a message or order, or to give or ask for information about something: *Simply phone through your order, and the equipment will be delivered to your house the next day.* | *Ted can work out a market price and phone it through to us.*

P

phone up

phone up *sb* | **phone** *sb* **up**

phone up

to telephone someone and speak to them: *I kept phoning her up, asking to see her and the children.* | *Jonathan has just phoned up to say that he'll be late.* | *I phoned up the police and told them about it, but they said there was nothing they could do.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **call up, ring up** BrE

PICK

picked, picked, picking

pick at

1 **pick at** *sth*

to eat only small amounts of food without showing much interest in it, for example because you are not hungry or you are thinking about something else: *Chantal was picking at the salad without much enthusiasm.* | *Paige was so worried she could only pick at her meal, forcing down a mouthful or two.*

2 **pick at** *sth*

to scratch or pull something gently again and again: *Wayne sat on a log, picking at an old scab on his knee.* | *"So," said Andrea, picking at a pool of wax on the table, "why did you come back?"*

3 **pick at** *sb*

especially AmE to keep criticizing someone or complaining about things that they do, especially things that are not very important: *My two boys pick at each other all day about stupid little things.*

pick off

1 **pick off** *sb* | **pick** *sb* **off**

to shoot and kill one person or animal in a group, or destroy one plane, ship etc in a group and continue to do this again and again: *The British soldiers wore red tunics, which made it easy for the Boers to pick them off from a distance.* | *They picked off Iraq's mobile Scud missiles one by one and, gradually, the Scuds stopped reaching their targets.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take out**

2 **pick off** *sb* | **pick** *sb* **off**

to choose and take the best people or things from a group: *The big clubs are able to pick off rising young stars early in their career.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cherrypick**

pick on

1 **pick on** *sb/sth*

to treat one person badly in a way that seems very unfair, for example because they are the weakest or they are different from the other people in the group: *Marjorie was a shy, quiet girl who was always being picked on and bullied by the other kids at school* | *The other students have found out that I am gay, and keep picking on me all the time.*

2 **pick on** *sb/sth*

BrE to choose one person or thing when you could easily have chosen someone else or a different one: *My son's first word was 'dada', but for some reason my daughter picked on 'toaster'.* | *I don't know why he picked on me; I've never been very attractive.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **choose**

pick out

1 **pick out** *sth/sb* | **pick** *sth/sb* **out**

to choose one particular thing or person from a group: *Sophie naturally picked out the most expensive ring in the whole shop.* | *The judges picked her work out as the best in the show.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **select, single out**

2 **pick out** *sb/sth* | **pick** *sb/sth* **out**

to recognize a person or thing from a group: *The watchman was able to pick out his attackers at an identification parade.* | *It was hard to pick out faces that he knew in the crowd.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **identify**

3 **pick out** *sb/sth* | **pick out** *sb/sth*

to succeed in seeing someone or something, even though this is difficult, for example because it is dark or they are a long distance from you: *My eyes had become accustomed to the dark, so I could pick out shapes about seventy-five yards away.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make out, identify**

4 **pick out** *sth* | **pick** *sth* **out**

if a light picks out something, it shines on it or in a way that makes it possible to see it clearly: *The dim light picked out the shadows of his cheekbones.* | *Suddenly the car headlights picked out a cat which was darting across the road in front of them.*

5 **pick out** *sth* | **pick** *sth* **out** USUALLY PASSIVE

if something is picked out, it is in a different colour or material so that it is noticeable

+ in *The sign had a cream background, with the lettering picked out in black. | His jacket had the words 'Live to Ride' picked out in metal studs across the back.*

6 **pick out** | **pick** *sth* **out**

to play a tune on a musical instrument, especially slowly or with difficulty because you cannot remember it clearly or you cannot play well: *Sinead was picking out an old Beatles song on her guitar. I think it was 'Norwegian Wood'.*

pick over

1 **pick over** *sth*

to examine a group of things carefully in order to choose the ones you want: *People were picking over piles of old clothes on the market stalls, looking for bargains. | The seabirds picked over the debris that washed up on the lake shore, and scrounged food from the tourists.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look through**

2 **pick over** *sth*

to examine or discuss something very carefully, especially paying particular attention to the most unpleasant or embarrassing parts of it: *The weekly magazines have been picking over the details of the trial. | She hated the idea of her personal life being picked over by the media.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dissect**

pick through

pick through *sth*

to search through things, especially an untidy pile of things, in order to find something: *Rescue workers are picking through the ruins, looking for survivors.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **search through, sift through**

pick up

1 **pick up** *sth/sb* | **pick** *sth/sb* **up**

to lift something or someone up, especially with your hands: *Maurin picked up the gun and put it in a pocket. | Picking up her bag she rushed out of the room. | The little girl's mother laughed and bent down to pick her up.*

pick up the phone (=lift up the phone so that you can use it) *The phone rang, and he picked it up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lift (up)**

● OPPOSITE: **put down**

2 **pick up** *sb/sth* | **pick** *sb/sth* **up**

to collect someone from a place where they are waiting for you, or something that is ready to be collected: *I went to pick Korey up from the airport. | When she called in at the garage to pick up her car, she was presented with a bill for over £1000. | The boys were eventually picked up by a rescue boat and taken by ambulance to Nobles Hospital.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **collect**

pick-up N [C]
when you go somewhere to collect something that you have arranged to buy or take somewhere else: *Drug dealers used the place for pick-ups of heroin and cocaine. | Can you wait in the pick-up area while I bring the car around?*

pickup truck/pickup N [C]
a small truck with an open area at the back in which goods can be carried

P

3 **pick up** *sb* | **pick** *sb* **up**

if you pick someone up while you are travelling in a car or other vehicle, you stop so that they can get in with you and travel with you: *We stopped to pick up a couple of hitchhikers, who said they were trying to get to Athens.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give sb a lift**

4 **pick up** *sth* | **pick** *sth* **up**

to get or buy something, especially something that you find by chance and buy for a low price: *Did you manage to pick up any bargains in the sales? | They both loved the painting. Arnold had picked it up in the sixties for just a few pounds.*

5 **pick up** *sth* | **pick** *sth* **up**

to get or buy something, especially in a place that you have gone to for another purpose: *If you're going into town, can you pick up a magazine for me?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get**

6 **pick up** *sth* | **pick** *sth* **up**

to get or win something such as a prize or votes in an election, or something that helps you be successful: *Last year the movie picked up six Academy Awards, including best actor and best screenplay. | The Democrats are likely to pick up more than 50% of the votes.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get, win**

7 **pick** *sth* **up** | **pick up** *sth*

to learn how to do something by watching or listening to other people or by practising doing it, rather than by being taught: *While I was in Tokyo I picked up quite a bit of Japanese. | The system's easy to use. You'll soon pick it up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **learn**

8 **pick** *sth* **up** | **pick** *sth* **up**

to learn about something such as a useful piece of information, an interesting idea, or story about someone: *I went to see Lucy, hoping to pick up some juicy gossip.*

pick up a tip (=a useful piece of information) *Here's a useful tip I picked up the other day. Cover the beans in cooking oil before you plant them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **find out**

9 **pick up** *sth* **pick** *sth* **up**

to get an infectious disease: *She's got a nasty cough. We think she must have picked it up at school.* | *Charles may have picked up malaria when he was in Africa.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get, catch, contract** *formal*

10 **pick up** *sth* **pick** *sth* **up**

if you pick up a habit or a way of speaking or behaving, you start to do it because you have spent a lot time with a particular group of people or in a particular place: *The children had all picked up strong local accents while they were at school.* | *It's said that British soldiers picked up the habit of drinking wine in France during the war.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **acquire** *formal*

P

11 **pick up** *sth* **pick** *sth* **up**

to earn a particular amount of money for your work, especially a surprisingly large amount: *Top city lawyers can pick up well over £100,000 a year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **earn**

12 **pick up**

if a situation picks up, it starts to improve after a time when there have been a lot of problems – use this especially about a company's business or the economic situation in a country: *In recent months the economy has started to pick up again.* | *Don't worry, I'm sure things will soon pick up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **improve, get better**

pick-up N [SINGULAR]
a time when trade, business, or the economic situation improves: *There's been a pick-up in sales over the last quarter.*

pick-me-up N [C]
a drink that makes you feel better and gives you more energy

13 **pick up** **pick up** *sth* **pick** *sth* **up**

to start doing something again from the point where you or someone else stopped before, for example a story, conversation, relationship, or a period of success: *La Plante's new detective thriller picks up at the point where the previous one ended.*

pick up where sb/sth left off *When he came back on court, Sampras picked up where he'd left off, and won the match easily.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **resume, take up**

14 **pick up** *sb* **pick** *sb* **up**

to start talking to someone who you have never met before in order to have a sexual relationship with them: *Bridget woke up with some strange man who she'd picked up at a party the night before.* | *He went around picking up half-drunk girls in pubs and spending the night with them.*

pick-up N [SINGULAR]
when you start talking to someone you have never met because you want to have a sexual relationship with them: *I was just being friendly, but she thought this was some sort of pick-up.* | *bars and pick-up joints* (=places where people go to meet people so that they can have sex with them)

15 **pick up** *sb* **pick** *sb* **up**

if the police pick up someone, especially a criminal or someone they have been looking for, they stop them and take them somewhere to ask them questions: *Police officers were waiting to pick him up for questioning when he arrived at Moscow airport.* | *Angel was picked up by police half a mile from her home, after her parents had called in to say she was missing.*

16 **pick up** *sth* **pick** *sth* **up**

if electronic equipment picks up sounds, radio signals, or programmes, it receives them and makes it possible for you to listen to them or watch them: *The Titanic's distress signal was picked up by other vessels in the area.* | *If you have a short-wave radio you can pick up the BBC World Service.* | *Microphones tend to pick up a lot of background noise, which then has to be edited out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **receive**

17 **pick up** *sth* **pick up** *sth*

to notice a smell or signs that show that someone or something is there or has been there: *The dog picked up the missing child's scent, and followed the trail to some bushes.*

18 **pick up** *sth* **pick** *sth* **up**

to notice a mistake or something that seems odd about something: *Don't worry about spelling mistakes – the spell-checker should pick them up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **spot, detect, identify**

19 **pick yourself up**

to get up off the ground and stand after you have fallen down: *Curtis picked himself up and looked around for his wallet.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get up**

20 **pick up the bill/the tab**

to pay a bill for someone: *The government will have to pick up the bill for all the damage.* | *We went out for a meal in a fancy restaurant, and she picked up the tab.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pay**

21 **pick up speed/steam**

if a vehicle or ship picks up speed or steam, it starts to move more quickly: *The car picked up speed and shot off into the distance.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **speed up, accelerate**

● OPPOSITE: **slow down**

22 | **pick up** | *sth* |

AmE informal to make a place tidy: *You can't go out until you pick up your room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clean up, tidy up** *BrE*

23 | **the wind picks up** |

if the wind picks up, it starts to get stronger: *That evening the wind picked up and storm clouds started moving over from the east.*

pick up after

| **pick up after** | *sb* |

spoken informal to put things back in the right place and make everything neat and tidy, after someone else has taken things out and left them in the wrong place: *All I seem to do is wash, clean, and pick up after the children.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clean up after sb**

pick up on

1 | **pick up on** | *sth* |

to notice something, especially something that other people do not notice: *Children tend to pick up on your worries and stress, and it's difficult to hide your true feelings from them.* | *I think Errol was the only one who picked up on my mood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **notice**

2 | **pick up on** | *sth* |

to notice something and realize that it is important, and take action because of it: *The press were quick to pick up on the story.* | *"I may have mentioned your name in one of my letters." "Let's just hope she doesn't pick up on it."*

3 | **pick up on** | *sth* |

if you pick up on something that was mentioned earlier, you say more about it or say things that are connected with it: *She smiled, then picked up on his previous question.* | *To pick up on an earlier theme, there are two main traditions in the history of Western art.*

4 | **pick** | *sb* | **up on** | *sth* |

BrE to tell someone that they have made a mistake or done something that you disapprove of: *Glyn took his remark as an insult, and immediately picked him up on it.* | *She asked me to pick her up on any mistakes in her English.*

* SIMILAR TO: **correct**

pick up with

| **pick up with** | *sb* |

to start meeting someone again and start doing things together as friends: *Amelia was looking forward to picking up with her old friends when she got back home again.*

PIDDLE

piddled, piddled, piddling

piddle around
ALSO piddle about *BrE*

| **piddle around/about** |

informal to waste time doing unimportant things: *Can we go soon? I'm fed up with piddling around here all day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss about/around** *BrE informal*

P

PIECE

pieced, pieced, piecing

piece out

| **piece out** | *sth* | | **piece** | *sth* | **out** |

if you piece out the truth or the facts about something, you gradually succeed in finding them out and understanding them: *It took me several days to piece out what had happened to the money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

piece together

1 | **piece together** | *sth* | | **piece** | *sth* | **together** |

to put together all the information that you have about a situation in order to try to understand what happened or understand the truth: *Accident investigators are still trying to piece together the events that led up to the crash.* | *Her story was very muddled and it seemed that she had pieced it together out of various pieces of gossip that she'd picked up here and there.*

2 | **piece together** | *sth* | | **piece** | *sth* | **together** |

to make something by putting all the parts of it together in the correct order or position: *Although the bowl was badly damaged, they managed to piece it together again.* | *It's a bit like piecing together an enormous jigsaw.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put together, assemble** *formal*

PIG

pigged, pigged, pigging

pig out

| **pig out** |

informal to eat a lot of food, especially more than you need or more than is sensible: *I find that if I don't eat breakfast, I'm starving by lunchtime and I pig out.*

+ on *It just isn't possible to pig out on a lot of junk food and still stay slim.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stuff yourself** *informal*

PILE

piled, piled, piling

pile in

pile in

if a group of people pile in, they all enter a place or vehicle, quickly and not in an organized way: *We were having a quiet drink at the bar when a group of walkers suddenly piled in.* | *Luke opened the door of the battered old Mercedes. "Pile in!" he said to us all with a smile.*

● OPPOSITE: **pile out**

pile into

pile into *sth*

if a group of people pile into a place or vehicle, they all enter it, quickly and not in an organized way: *Bunny, Martin and the four girls piled into the taxi amid a lot of shouting and drunken laughter.*

● OPPOSITE: **pile out of**

pile on

1 **pile on** *sth* **pile** *sth* **on** **pile** *sth* **on** *sth*

to give more and more of something, for example pressure, praise, or detail in order to achieve the result or effect that you want: *Lessard's a good writer generally – but she's boring when she piles on endless details about her childhood.* | *The Scots piled on the pressure and achieved a comfortable win.*

2 **pile it on**

to talk about something a lot, especially in a way that makes a situation or something that someone has done seem much worse than it really is: *Nobody pays any attention when I do something right, but they certainly pile it on when I make a mistake.* | *There had been no crying or accusations last night, but George suspected that Marjorie was going to pile it on this morning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay it on (thick)** *informal*

3 **pile on the agony**

BrE to make a situation even more difficult for a person or a team than it already is, especially in a game of sport: *Kenny Glasgow missed the goal, which piled on the agony for United, who had already lost two other chances.*

4 **pile on weight/pounds etc**

especially BrE if you pile on weight, you become much fatter and heavier: *Most people pile on some extra weight at Christmas.*

● OPPOSITE: **shed weight/pounds etc**

pile out

pile out

if a group of people pile out, they all leave a vehicle or a place quickly and not in an organized way: *All the people on the coach piled out and started running for shelter from the rain.*

+ of *An alarm went off and everyone began piling out of their rooms in their pyjamas.*

● OPPOSITE: **pile in**

pile up

1 **pile up**

if a lot of something piles up, more and more of it collects somewhere and forms a pile: *Dorcas sat at his desk, and stared at the snow piling up against the walls outside.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **build up**

2 **pile** *sth* **up** **pile up** *sth*

to put a lot of things on top of each other so that they form a pile: *What's in all those boxes that are piled up in the garage?* | *Helen carefully piled up the logs in front of the stove.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stack up**

3 **pile up**

if work, debts, problems etc pile up, they increase in number or amount and you cannot deal with them all: *By that time the business was in serious trouble, and its debts were rapidly piling up.* | *The traffic going out of town is really starting to pile up by five o'clock.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **build up, mount up**

4 **pile up** *sth* **pile** *sth* **up**

to make the number or amount of something increase in a way that causes problems for you: *The government has been criticized for piling up financial trouble.* | *The company has piled up losses of over $20 million.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **build up**

5 **pile up**

informal, especially AmE if a lot of vehicles pile up, they crash into each other: *It has been a bad week for traffic accidents, with twenty-one cars piling up on the US route 23 between Toledo and Columbus.*

pile-up N [C]
a road accident in which a lot of vehicles crash into each other: *Several people were injured in a 12-vehicle pile-up on the M25 near Wisley.*

6 **pile up** *sb's* **hair**

to tie your hair up on top of your head, instead of letting it hang down around your shoulders.: *The old lady's long silver hair was piled up in a bun.*

7 **pile up** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in winning a lot of points, goals etc in a game of sport: *San Francisco piled up 413 yards, led by quarterback Terrance Brown.* | *Kent piled up 603 for eight – their highest total since 1934.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **notch up, chalk up**

8 **pile up** *sth*

especially AmE to gradually succeed in making a large amount of money: *If Susan's investments hit a 10% rate of return, she could succeed in piling up $2.3 million by retirement.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **build up, accumulate** *formal*

PILOT

piloted, piloted, piloting

pilot through

1 **pilot** *sb* **through** *sth*

to carefully show someone exactly how to do something, or where to go, especially when it is very complicated and confusing: *Part of your job will be to pilot clients through the legal requirements of forming companies.* | *Students will need to be piloted through the maze of options that are available to them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **guide (through)**

2 **pilot** *sth* **through** | **pilot through** *sth* | **pilot** *sth* **through** *sth*

to be responsible for making sure that a new law or plan is officially accepted by the government or people in authority: *David Mellor, the Home Office minister at that time, piloted the Bill through Parliament.*

PIN

pinned, pinned, pinning

pin down

1 **pin down** *sth* | **pin** *sth* **down**

to understand or explain exactly what something is or what it is like: *The company is keen to review its recent performance and pin down some of the problem areas.* | *Bobby heard a voice at the door which brought back some distant memory, but he couldn't quite pin it down.*

be difficult/hard/impossible to pin down *It is estimated that there are about 5 million illegal immigrants in the US, but the numbers are impossible to pin down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **identify**

2 **pin** *sb* **down** | **pin down** *sb*

to make someone give you exact details or make a definite decision about something, especially when they have been trying to avoid doing this: *I never know where Bernard is these days – it's impossible to pin him down.*

+ to *They've been promising to meet us for ages, but I can't pin them down to a date.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **nail down**

3 **pin** *sb* **down** | **pin down** *sb*

to force someone to stay in a particular position by holding them down so that they cannot move: *He had the child pinned down on the grass.*

4 **pin down** *sb* | **pin** *sb* **down**

to prevent enemy soldiers from escaping by surrounding the area where they are: *The plan was to head straight for Kuwait City, and pin down the Iraqis there.*

pin on/upon

● **Pin upon** is more formal than **pin on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **pin** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

if you pin the blame for something on someone, you say that they are responsible for something bad that has happened, often when this is not true: *Don't try to pin the blame on me.* | *The President was trying to pin the economic problems on Republican lawmakers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stick on** *BrE informal*

2 **pin** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

if you pin a crime on someone, you accuse them of having done it, often when this is not true: *Lawmen and prosecutors, desperate to please the public, pinned the murders on Sharif.* | *"I don't know anything about a burglary," the boy said. "You can't pin it on me."*

3 **pin your hopes/faith on** *sb/sth*

if you pin your hopes on something or someone, you hope very much that something will happen successfully or someone will help you, because your plans depend on it: *The company says it's pinning its hopes on new products to increase its profits.* | *Charles needed someone to do him a favour, and he was pinning his hopes on Guy.*

pin up

1 **pin** *sth* **up** | **pin up** *sth*

to fasten a picture, note, photograph etc to a wall: *A photograph of her son was pinned up by her desk.* | *There's a postcard from Joe – I'll pin it up over here.*

pin-up N [C]
a photograph of an attractive famous person, that people stick on their walls, or a person who appears in one of these photographs: *Leonardo Di Caprio, the latest teenage pin-up* | *a pin-up girl*

2 **pin up** *sb's* **hair**

if a woman pins up her hair, she puts it up on her head and fixes it there with pins, instead of letting it hang down around her shoulders: *Karin found it easier to keep her hair tidy if she wore it pinned up.*

pin upon

SEE **pin on**

P

PINE

pined, pined, pining

pine away

pine away

to feel very unhappy, usually because you cannot be with someone that you love, with the result that you cannot eat or enjoy yourself, or even that you die

+ **for** *Why don't you go out and enjoy yourself – there's no point pining away for him while he's abroad!* | *The dog simply pined away and died.*

pine for

1 **pine for** *sb*

to feel unhappy because you miss someone very much and wish that you could be with them, especially so much that it makes you very unhappy: *It's been ten years since Ralph left, but she still pines for him.* | *Christine, who had been pining for her friends in Colorado, decided to return to Denver.*

2 **pine for** *sth*

to wish that you could have a particular thing, especially something that you used to have: *After a week of seeing absolutely nobody, I was beginning to pine for some excitement.* | *A lot of doctors pine for the old days, when they had more responsibility.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **long for**

PIPE

piped, piped, piping

pipe down

pipe down USUALLY IN COMMANDS

informal to talk more quietly, or to stop complaining: *"Everybody pipe down," said Uncle Alfred. "There's no need to get so excited."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **quieten down** *BrE*, **quiet down** *AmE*

pipe up

pipe up

to suddenly say something, especially when people are not expecting it: *"Definitely not," piped up Mum, who I'd thought was asleep until then.*

PISS

pissed, pissed, pissing

● **Piss** is a rude word, and some people are offended by it.

piss about/around

1 **piss about/around**

BrE informal to behave in a stupid way, or to waste time doing things that are not useful or important: *Stop pissing around and get on with your work.* | *A lot of people think that students just piss around all day smoking dope.* | *Every time I answer the phone there's no one there – I suppose it's just someone pissing about.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess about** *informal*

2 **piss** *sb* **about/around**

BrE informal to treat someone badly or waste their time by not telling them something they need to know, or by changing your mind about something: *They really pissed me about – first they offered me a job and then they changed their minds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess about** *informal*, **muck about/around** *BrE informal*

piss away

piss away *sth* **piss** *sth* **away**

informal to waste a lot of money in a stupid way: *In those days we used to piss away most of our coins at the video arcade.* | *Should we feel sympathy for people who sit on park benches and piss all their money away on drink?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squander** *formal*

piss down

it's pissing down

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very hard: *It was pissing down and freezing cold, but I still enjoyed myself.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **it's pouring down, it's tipping down** *BrE spoken informal*

piss off

1 **piss off!**

spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away, especially because you are very annoyed with them: *Ted stared at Pete in disgust. "Piss off!" he said finally.* | *Why don't you just piss off and leave me alone!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go away, get lost** *informal*, **naff off!** *BrE spoken informal*

2 **piss** *sb* **off** **piss off** *sb*

informal to annoy someone very much: *Rosie didn't appear for the rest of the evening, which really pissed him off.* | *"Then some idiot in a*

BMW pulls right out in front of me and I had to do an emergency stop." "It pisses me off when people do that."

* SIMILAR TO: **annoy, be hacked off** *informal, especially BrE*

pissed off ADJ
informal annoyed, disappointed, or unhappy

+ about *Everyone was pissed off about the result of the match.*

+ with *I was feeling very pissed off with Jack for being late.*

3 **piss off**

BrE spoken informal to go somewhere or leave somewhere, especially because you are tired of being where you are: *It was already six o'clock and I was dying to piss off home.* | *Paul's just pissed off to Ibiza for the rest of the summer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bugger off** *BrE spoken informal*

PIT
pitted, pitted, pitting

pit against

pit *sb/sth* **against** *sb/sth*

to make someone or something fight or compete against another person or thing, in order to see which one will win: *In the finals Clark and Taylor were pitted against two other top players.* | *The war pitted Serbia against Croatia and Bosnia.* | *The girls plan to pit their talents against the boys' in the end-of-term competition.*

pit out

pit out | **pit out** *sth* | **pit** *sth* **out**

AmE spoken informal to sweat so much that your clothes become wet under your arms: *It was so hot in there, I totally pitted out my shirt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sweat, perspire** *formal*

PITCH
pitched, pitched, pitching

pitch for

pitch for *sth*

to try to get something that others are competing for too, especially some business or a job, by making an offer for it, or trying to persuade people to give it to you: *GGT pitched for Cusson's media business as early as last August.*

pitch in

1 **pitch in**

informal to help other people to do work that needs to be done, especially in a willing and cheerful way: *Everyone pitched in, working day and night to get the new club ready on time.*

+ with *After the floods, volunteers pitched in with trucks to help the three thousand residents.*

* SIMILAR TO: **muck in** *BrE informal*

2 **pitch in**

informal to help someone that you know by giving them money: *Eventually, when Mary needed a car, all her family and friends pitched in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contribute**

3 **pitch in**

informal to give your opinion during a discussion in which a lot of people are involved

+ with *When Simon had finished giving his report, the chairman asked everyone to pitch in with their views.*

pitch into

1 **pitch into** *sth*

BrE to start doing some work that needs to be done in a willing and cheerful way: *More than 20,000 young people throughout Britain rolled up their sleeves and pitched into an annual countryside clean-up.*

2 **pitch into** *sb*

BrE to attack someone, either by hitting them hard, or by criticizing them strongly: *Owen wasn't prepare to watch anyone being attacked, so he pitched into the youths and they ran away.* | *I'd only come to ask for Wesley's advice, and I was shocked when he turned round and pitched into me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay into** *informal*

pitch up

pitch up

BrE informal if someone that you know pitches up, they arrive where you are, or where you are waiting for them: *Bill hasn't pitched up yet, has he?* | *Then my American friend pitched up with the news that we were all meeting at the disco.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn up, show up** *informal*

PIVOT
pivoted, pivoted, pivoting

pivot on

pivot on *sth*

to depend or be based on something in order to be possible or successful: *"Concentrate," said Fielding, "the entire plan pivots on this decision."*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on, depend on, hinge on**

P

P

PLAGUE

plagued, plagued, plaguing

plague with

1 **be plagued with**

if you are plagued with a lot of unpleasant or annoying things, these things keep happening and causing a lot of trouble, pain etc: *Frederick was plagued with one illness after another throughout his childhood.* | *During the past year the organization has been plagued with financial problems and worries.*

2 **plague** *sb* **with** *sth*

to annoy someone or cause trouble for them, for example by continuously asking questions or making difficult demands: *She was immediately surrounded by a crowd of reporters, plaguing her with questions.*

PLAN

planned, planned, planning

plan ahead

plan ahead

to make decisions and plans about what you will do in the future and when you will do it: *Students who don't plan ahead may have difficulty in completing all their work in time.*

\+ **for** *The reason for the company's long history of success is their ability to plan ahead for the future.*

plan for

plan for *sth*

to make plans that include or consider a particular thing or event: *It came as a shock when the house needed a new roof, because I hadn't planned for the expense.* | *When computers were first made, nobody had planned for the year 2000.*

* SIMILAR TO: **allow for**

plan on

1 **plan on doing** *sth*

to intend to do something: *David always saved his money because he planned on retiring early.* | *If we plan on providing quality education, we must follow certain basic principles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **intend to**

2 **not plan on (doing)** *sth*

to not expect something to happen: *Kate looked at her watch and groaned – she hadn't planned on this sort of delay.* | *I'm not planning on staying out very late.*

3 **plan on** *sb* **doing** *sth*

to intend or expect that someone will do something: *Molly's father had never planned on her going to college.*

plan out

plan out *sth* **plan** *sth* **out**

to decide in detail what you are going to do, and how and when you will do it: *With the help of this recipe book, you will be able to plan out each meal for an entire week.* | *I'm not one of those writers who can just begin typing – I have to plan it all out.*

PLANE

planed, planed, planing

plane down

plane down *sth* **plane** *sth* **down**

if you plane down the surface of a piece of wood, you make it smooth, using a special tool called a plane: *Plane down the wood before laying it on the floor.*

PLANT

planted, planted, planting

plant out

plant *sth* **out** **plant out** *sth*

BrE if you plant out small plants that have been growing indoors in pots, you plant them outside in the ground, where they can continue to grow: *Tomatoes that have been grown indoors can be planted out in May or early June.*

plant over

plant over *sth* **plant** *sth* **over**

to put flowers or other plants into the ground so that they cover it: *They dug up the lawn and planted it over with brightly coloured flowers.*

plant up

plant up *sth* **plant** *sth* **up**

BrE to plant flowers, plants, vegetables etc in a container: *Many gardeners plant up colourful tubs, window boxes and baskets for the summer.*

PLASTER

plastered, plastered, plastering

plaster over

plaster *sth* **over** **plaster over** *sth*

to cover the surface of a wall with a substance called plaster, in order to make this surface smooth or hide cracks, holes etc in it: *Some of the brickwork had been left exposed, instead of being plastered over.*

PLAY

played, played, playing

play along

1 **play along**

to pretend to agree with someone or to do what they want you to do, in order to avoid annoying them or to get some advantage: *Hugh realized that the only way to get more information was to play along.*

+ with *I was surprised when she introduced me as her uncle, but I played along with it.*

2 **play** *sb* **along**

to deliberately encourage someone to believe something that is not true, especially that you intend to marry them: *Marcus has been playing that poor girl along for years.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **string along** *informal*

play around ALSO play about *BrE*

1 **play around/about**

informal to behave in a silly way or waste time, when you should be being sensible: *In this business you can't play around – you have to be in control all the time.* | *We didn't mean to hurt him. We were just playing around, that's all.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess around** *informal*

2 **play around/about**

informal to have a lot of different sexual relationships, or to have a sexual relationship with someone who is not your husband, wife, or usual partner: *I played around a bit when I was young, but now I've settled down with one man.*

+ with *He started playing around with younger women.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sleep around, screw around** *spoken informal*

play around with ALSO play about with *BrE*

1 **play around/about with** *sth*

informal to think about or try different ideas or different ways of doing something, especially before deciding which ones are best: *I like to play around with different recipes and ingredients.* | *It's a great song – apparently the group just got together and played around with different rhythms until they came up with it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **experiment (with), try out**

2 **play around/about with** *sth*

informal to change something when it is not safe or sensible to do this: *Don't play around with his diet while he's ill – stick to simple food.* | *I don't think you should play about with a young girl's future like that.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess around with** *informal*

play at

1 **what's** *sb* **playing at?**

BrE spoken informal if you ask what someone is playing at, you want to know what they are doing or why they are doing it, because you are very surprised or annoyed by it: *What the hell do you think you're playing at – going out at this time of night?*

2 **play at** *sb/sth*

to pretend to be a particular type of person or to do a particular thing, usually as a game: *Little girls often play at doctors and nurses.*

play at doing sth *two little old ladies who were playing at being detectives*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pretend to be**

3 **play at** *sth*

to do a job or activity for only part of the time, and without being very serious about it: *If you're serious about politics, you can't just play at it – it's your whole life.*

play back

1 **play back** *sth* **play** *sth* **back**

to listen to or watch something that has recently been recorded on a tape: *He got home about midnight and played back the messages on his answerphone.* | *As part of your training, we will record you teaching a class and then play it back to you.*

2 **play back** **play back** *sth* **play** *sth* **back**

if a machine plays back sound or pictures, it produces them when you operate it: *VHS machines can record and play back at three different speeds.*

playback N [U]
when a machine produces the sound or pictures that are recorded on a tape: *This machine has very high quality video playback.* | *the playback speed*

play down

1 **play down** *sth* **play** *sth* **down**

to try to make people believe that something is less important or serious than it really is: *The government has been trying to play down the scandal.*

play down the importance/seriousness/significance etc of sth *State department officials sought to play down the significance of the visit.*

● OPPOSITE: **exaggerate**

P

2 **play down** *sth* **play** *sth* **down**

to try to make people believe that something is not likely to happen: *Senior management has repeatedly played down the possibility of further redundancies.*

play down suggestions/expectations/fears etc *Burns played down expectations of a breakthrough in negotiations.*

3 **play down** *sth* **play** *sth* **down**

P

to try to make an emotion that you are feeling less noticeable to other people: *Donald tried to play down the fear in his voice.* | *"I expect he'll be late," Cathy said, playing down her excitement.*

play off

1 **play off**

especially BrE if people or teams that have the same number of points play off, they play the last game in a sports competition, in order to decide which one is the winner: *At the end of the season, the top two teams will play off at Twickenham for the title.*

play-off N [C]
a match between people or teams who have the same number of points, in order to decide the winner: *Leeds fans will be able to watch their team's European Cup play-off against Stuttgart on Friday.* | *the play-off final at Wembley*

2 **play off** *sth*

AmE to deliberately use a fact, idea, or emotion in order to get what you want, often in an unfair way: *This television show plays off the fears that many people in our society and culture have.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play on/upon, exploit**

3 **play off each other**

AmE if two or more people or things play off each other, they go well together, and each one makes the other's good qualities more noticeable: *During the interview the two brothers played off each other effectively.* | *Seeing the majority of the artist's works together in one place is valuable, because they play off each other so well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **complement**

play off against

play *sb/sth* **off against** *sb/sth*

play off *sb/sth* **against** *sb/sth*

to encourage one person or group to compete or argue with another, in order to get some advantage for yourself: *The seller's intention is to play one buyer off against another.* | *At this age children often begin to test relationships – playing each parent off against the other, for example.*

play on

1 **play on**

BrE to continue playing in a game of sport, even after an injury, or when someone has broken the rules: *John Simpkins played on, despite an early injury.* | *The referee signalled to play on.*

2 **play on**

to continue playing a musical instrument, even though something has happened which might have stopped you: *The conductor suddenly walked out, but the orchestra played on.*

play on/upon

● **Play upon** is more formal than **play on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **play on/upon** *sth*

to deliberately use a fact, idea, or emotion in order to do or get what you want, often in an unfair way: *Advertising achieves its aim by playing on our weaknesses and emotions.* | *The party's campaign played on the fear amongst white voters at the pace of de Klerk's reforms.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exploit, play off** *AmE*

2 **play on** *sth*

especially AmE to use your position, influence, or strong qualities in order to do or get what you want, often in an unfair way: *Some people said that she had played on her connections in order to get the job.*

3 **play on** *sb's* **mind**

if something plays on your mind, you cannot stop thinking about it, and it worries or upsets you: *"It wasn't your fault," Martha said. "You mustn't let it play on your mind."*

4 **play on** *sth*

literary if light plays on a surface or an object, it falls on it and moves backwards and forwards across it: *Daniel watched the sunlight playing on the roofs of the fishing village.*

play out

1a **be played out**

if an event is played out, especially an exciting or important one, it takes place: *The final scenes of their marriage were played out in a villa in St Tropez.* | *At the time, this was just one of many conflicts being played out on the world stage.*

1b **play out/play itself out**

especially AmE if an event plays out or plays itself out, it happens and finally ends with a particular result – used especially when you are considering what might happen: *I don't know if he'll win again. We'll just have to see how the election plays out.* | *No one knows yet how the debate on GM foods will play out.*

2 **play out** *sth*

to act part of a play or film or pretend to be a particular type of person: *The teacher chose three of the older children to play out the scene.* | *Now she was a teenager, she could no longer play out the role of Daddy's little girl.*

* SIMILAR TO: **act out**

3 **play out** *sth* **play** *sth* **out**

if people play out their feelings, dreams etc, they express them by pretending that a particular situation is really happening: *In a novel the writer is able to play out his own strange fantasies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **act out**

4 **play out your career/the season etc**

to continue playing, especially for the same team, until the end of your career, until the end of the season etc: *He turned down a contract offer that would have allowed him to play out his career with Kings.*

5 **be played out**

to be so tired that you cannot do anything else: *Lou's voice trailed into silence. She was played out – too exhausted even to weep.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be worn out, be shattered**

6 **be played out**

if a mine is played out, all the coal, gold etc has been taken out of the ground: *These people had hard lives, and when the mines played out, they moved on.*

play through

play *sth* **through** **play through** *sth*

to play a piece of music from the beginning to the end: *When I played the song through, it felt like I was young again.* | *The four of them played through Mozart's string quartets.*

play up

1 **play up** *sth* **play** *sth* **up**

to emphasize a quality or a fact, in order to attract people's attention to it or to make it seem more important than it really is: *When applying for a job, it's a good idea to play up your strong points in the opening paragraph.* | *The newspapers would certainly play it up big – the murder of an American on the Appian Way.*

● OPPOSITE: **play down**

2 **play up** **play** *sb* **up** NOT PASSIVE, USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE informal if a part of your body plays up or plays you up, it causes you pain or trouble: *Lawton's stomach was beginning to play him up.* | *Bertie had given up alcohol because his heart was playing up.*

3 **play up** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE informal if a machine, an electrical system etc plays up, it is not working as well as it should: *Is it all right if I borrow your car – my Renault's been playing up a bit recently.* | *Nothing happened when I turned on the light – this was not a good time for the electrics to be playing up.*

4 **play up** **play** *sb* **up** **play up** *sb*

BrE informal if children play up, or play someone up, they behave badly and cause trouble for the adult they are with, especially deliberately as a way of having fun: *Some of the boys in our class really played up – especially when a teacher was new.* | *Playing the teacher up was considered a normal part of school.*

P

play upon

SEE **play on/upon**

play up to

1 **play up to** *sb*

to try to make someone like you by behaving in a way you think will please them: *Angy always played up to men – she enjoyed seeing how they reacted to her.* | *Our speakers did not play up to reporters by handing them their speeches in advance.*

2 **play up to an image/stereotype**

to behave in a way that people expect you to behave, because they think you are a particular type of person: *Kevin Costner was considered a bit wild around Hollywood, and he played up to that image in the film True Romance.*

play with

1 **play with** *sth*

to keep touching something, or moving it from one position to another: *Charlene was walking up and down and playing with her hair.* | *All the time we were talking, he was playing with the money in his pocket.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fiddle (with)**

2 **play with** *sth*

to try using different types of something, or different ways of doing something, especially before deciding which one is best: *Making soup is a marvellous way of playing with different flavours.* | *As an artist, he played with a variety of techniques.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play around with**

3 **play with** *sth*

to consider an idea or a possibility, but not very seriously

play with the idea of doing sth *When I left university, I played with the idea of teaching for a while.*

play with the possibility that *There was a wonderful scene in the film, in which Willie and Marty play with the possibility that they could become lovers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **toy with**

4 **play with** *sb/sth*

to treat someone in a way that is not sincere or fair and is likely to upset them, for example by pretending to love them: *I hope you're not playing with Jane's feelings – she's such a nice person.*

P

5 **play with** *sth*

if you play with words or ideas, you use them in a clever and unusual way in order to be funny: *In all of his novels, Terry Pratchett has a way of playing with words that makes people laugh out loud.*

6 **have time/money etc to play with**

to have time, money etc that is still available to be used: *Don't panic – we've got plenty of time to play with!* | *We'd spent all our money on a house, so there wasn't much left to play with.*

7 **be playing with fire**

to be doing or dealing with something that is very difficult or dangerous: *In dealing directly with terrorist organizations, the government is really playing with fire.*

8 **play with yourself**

informal to touch your own sexual organs in order to give yourself pleasure: *One of the teachers found him playing with himself in the showers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jerk off** *AmE informal*, **toss off** *BrE informal*

PLOD

plodded, plodded, plodding

plod along/on

1 **plod along/on**

informal to continue walking or working in a slow but determined way, especially when it is difficult or not very interesting: *With rain spitting in our faces, we plodded along, determined not to give up.*

+ with *The police are still plodding on with their investigation, despite the lack of any evidence.*

2 **plod along/on**

informal to make progress very slowly: *"The economy continues to plod along," said Robert Dederick, a consultant from Chicago.*

PLONK

plonked, plonked, plonking

plonk down

1 **plonk** *sth/sb* **down** | **plonk down** *sth/sb*

informal, especially BrE to put something or someone down quickly, without being careful with them: *Marge staggered in with the shopping bags and plonked them down on the table.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dump**

2 **plonk down** | **plonk** *sb* **down**

informal, especially BrE to sit down quickly and heavily, especially when you need to relax: *I plonked down on the sofa and began thinking about what had happened.*

plonk yourself down *Just then a group of soldiers came in and plonked themselves down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **plump down**

PLOT

plotted, plotted, plotting

plot out

plot out *sth* | **plot** *sth* **out**

to plan the details of what you will do, where you will go, or what is likely to happen: *Christina and Elaine were plotting out a night on Baxter's Row, exploring the late-night bars and restaurant.* | *It is the job of the sales manager to plot out predicted sales.*

PLOUGH *BrE* PLOW *AmE*

ploughed, ploughed, ploughing BrE
plowed, plowed, plowing AmE

plough ahead

plough ahead

to continue doing something or making progress when it is difficult, or when people are opposing you: *I could hardly hear her voice on the end of the line, but I decided to plow ahead anyway.*

+ with *The government will plough ahead with national tests this year, despite protests from teachers.*

plough back

plough *sth* **back** | **plough back** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to spend the money that you have earned from a business on improving the business in order to make it bigger and more successful

+ into *The profits were ploughed back into investment in staff and technology.* | *Sales proceeds are plowed back into the organizations to find new projects.*

plough in/into

1 **plough** *sth* **into** *sth* **plough in** *sth*

to spend or provide large amounts of money in order to help something develop or be successful: *The big drug companies have already plowed billions of dollars into AIDS research. | The report warns that unless more cash is ploughed in, we will still not have the rail system we so urgently need.*

2 **plough in** *sth* **plough** *sth* **in**

plough *sth* **into** *sth*

if farmers plough in crops or other materials, or plough them into the land, they dig them into the land in order to improve it: *Quick-growing crops are useful because they can be ploughed in to increase the soil's fertility. | Waste from animals is a valuable fertilizer – all you have to do is plough it into the land.*

plough into

plough into *sth*

if a vehicle ploughs into something, it crashes into it with a lot of force because its driver cannot control it: *A runaway truck had plowed into a gas station, causing a giant explosion. | 264 people died when the plane ploughed into a crowded marketplace in the capital, Kinshasa.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crash into**

plough on

plough on

to continue doing something or going somewhere even though it is difficult or boring

+ with *It was late, but I knew I'd have to plough on with the work until it was done. | They ploughed on through the mountains until they came to the Nepalese border.*

plough on regardless (=continue doing something, even though there are problems or difficulties, or someone tells you to stop) *Stephen didn't seem to be listening to anything I said, and just plowed on regardless.*

plough through

1 **plough through** *sth*

to read, write, or deal with all of something, when there is a lot to do and it takes a long time: *It was such a boring lesson – all we did was plough through a set of grammar exercises. | Justice Charles Dubin now has to plough through 14,500 pages of evidence from 119 witnesses before making his findings known.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **work through**

2 **plough through** *sth*

to slowly eat all of something, especially when there is a lot of it and you are not enjoying it: *Jamie was sitting in the canteen, ploughing through a meal of cabbage and potatoes.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eat through**

3 **plough through** *sth*

to move through something that is blocking your way in order to get somewhere: *Rescue workers had to plow through deep snow in order to reach the farm. | They spent most of the walk ploughing through waist-high nettles and clumps of bramble.*

4 **plough through** *sth*

if a vehicle ploughs through something, it hits it and continues moving through it because the driver is not in control: *A stolen Volkswagen Golf ploughed through the traffic barrier and ended up on the wrong side of the road.*

plough up

1 **plough up** *sth* **plough** *sth* **up**

to break up the surface of land using a special machine called a plough, in order to prepare it for planting crops: *At the end of the year the fields are ploughed up and fertilized, ready for the spring.*

2 **plough up** *sth* **plough** *sth* **up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to spoil the surface of an area of ground by driving or riding over it, so that it becomes very muddy and uneven: *The paths around Clavering are constantly being ploughed up by four-wheel drive vehicles.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **churn up**

PLUCK

plucked, plucked, plucking

pluck at

pluck at *sth*

to pull something quickly and repeatedly with your fingers: *The little boy plucked at her sleeve. | Sally was staring into space, plucking nervously at her necklace.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull at**

PLUG

plugged, plugged, plugging

plug away

plug away

informal to keep working hard in order to try to do something, even though it takes a long time: *They kept plugging away until they found a solution to the problem.*

+ at *I'm sure if you keep plugging away at it, your English will improve.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **work away, slog away** *BrE informal*, **toil away**

P

plug in

plug *sth* **in** | **plug in** *sth*

to connect a piece of electrical equipment to the main supply of electricity or to another piece of electrical equipment: *Marion filled the kettle and plugged it in.* | *I checked the phone cord and made sure it was plugged in correctly.*

plug-in
AmE a plug-in piece of electrical equipment is designed to be connected directly to the main electricity supply: *a plug-in 110 volt motor*

plug into

1 **plug** *sth* **into** *sth*

to connect a piece of electrical equipment to another piece of electrical equipment or to a supply of electricity: *Plug the microphone into your video cassette recorder.* | *an electric pump that can be plugged into an ordinary 13 amp wall socket*

2 **plug into** *sth*

if a piece of electrical equipment plugs into another piece of electrical equipment or into a supply of electricity, it can be connected to it: *The printer plugs into a socket at the back of your computer.*

3 **plug into** *sth*

to connect your computer to an information system: *An Edinburgh boys' school is the first in Britain to plug into the French government's new technology learning centre.*

be plugged into sth (=have a computer that is connected to an information system) *Almost all the students are plugged into the Internet.*

plug up

plug up *sth* | **plug** *sth* **up**

to fill or block a small hole by putting something in it: *We used mud and straw to plug up the holes in the roof.* | *With his ears plugged up, Albert could sleep undisturbed by the noise around him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block up**

PLUMB

plumbed, plumbed, plumbing

plumb in

plumb in *sth* | **plumb** *sth* **in**

to connect a bath, toilet, washing machine etc to the water supply: *The Whirlpool dishwasher is easy to plumb in – you can do it yourself.* | *Once the sink has been plumbed in, a silicone sealant is used around the edge to make it watertight.*

PLUMP

plumped, plumped, plumping

plump down

1 **plump (yourself) down**

BrE to sit down suddenly and heavily: *She plumped herself down at Anna's side.* | *Jack staggered in and plumped down exhausted onto a chair.*

2 **plump down** *sth* | **plump** *sth* **down**

BrE to put something down suddenly and carelessly: *Plumping down her bag on the table, Mrs Horrocks leaned forward and stared across at me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plonk down** *informal*

plump for

plump for *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

informal, especially BrE to choose a particular thing or person, especially after thinking about it carefully and when you are still not sure if it is the right choice: *In the end we plumped for a bottle of Chateau Musar.* | *Faced with a choice between Bob Dole and Bill Clinton, most voters plumped for Clinton.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choose, opt for**

plump out

plump out | **plump out** *sth* | **plump** *sth* **out**

to become fatter or make something fatter: *Lizzie's face has plumped out since I last saw her.* | *Soak the beans in water until they are plumped out.*

plump up

1 **plump up** *sth* | **plump** *sth* **up**

to make a cushion, pillow etc rounder and softer by shaking it. You rest your back or head on a cushion or pillow when you are sitting down or in bed: *Lydia heaved herself up in bed while the nurse plumped up her pillows.*

2 **plump up**

to swell or become fatter: *Raisins plump up during cooking whereas sultanas fall apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swell up**

PLUNGE

plunged, plunged, plunging

plunge in

plunge in

to start talking or doing something quickly and confidently, without thinking about it or preparing for it: *It would have been better to let her explain her problems before plunging*

in with a lot of advice. | I didn't really understand the conversation but I wanted to practise my French, so I plunged in anyway.

* SIMILAR TO: **dive in**

plunge into

1 **plunge** *sth* **into** *sth*

to push something firmly and deeply into something else: *Plunge the asparagus into boiling water. | Jill plunged her hands deep into her pockets.*

2 **plunge** *sth/sb* **into** *sth* | **plunge into** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to suddenly cause someone to be in a bad situation or state or to suddenly get into a bad situation or state: *The whole team was plunged into gloom after their humiliating defeat. | Another massacre has plunged Algeria into a new cycle of violence. | Saatchi and Saatchi, the world's largest advertising group, plunged into debt after its reorganization.*

3 **plunge** *sth/sb* **into darkness**

to suddenly make a place dark so that the people in it have no light: *There was a loud bang and the whole building was plunged into darkness. | A sudden gust of wind blew the lamp out, plunging us all into darkness.*

4 **plunge into** *sth*

to suddenly begin to take part in something without thinking about the possible results: *You need to work out your finances carefully, before you plunge into the housing market. | Forsyth plunged into a series of disputes that was to end in his downfall.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dive into**

PLY

plied, plied, plying

ply with

1 **ply** *sb* **with** *sth*

to keep giving someone large quantities of food or drink: *We chattered excitedly while our fond aunt plied us with cakes and lemonade. | He would ply his victims with liquor and then rob them.*

2 **ply** *sb* **with questions**

to keep asking someone questions: *The three girls were plying Rupert with questions about himself, his life and his work.*

POINT

pointed, pointed, pointing

point out

1 **point out** *sth/sb* | **point** *sth/sb* **out**

to show something or someone to another person for example by pointing at them with your finger or saying where they are: *We drove along Market Street and she pointed out the house where she was born. | There are a few mistakes here that I'd like to point out.*

+ to *I'll point him out to you if I see him.*

2 **point out** *sth* | **point** *sth* **out**

to tell someone something that they need to realize, because it is important in a particular situation or in a discussion you are having: *As I've already pointed out, it takes a long time to learn a foreign language. | Our financial adviser had pointed out the risks of investing in the currency markets.*

+ that *It is worth pointing out that one in ten children still leave school unable to read or write.*

+ to *I pointed out to the referee that the boy had done nothing to deserve a red card.*

point to

point to *sth*

to mention a fact which you think is important because you think it proves something: *The Prime Minister pointed to economic growth as evidence that the government's policies were working. | We in NATO can point to the fact that we will soon have reduced the number of nuclear warheads by 90%.*

point to/towards

point to/towards *sth*

if the evidence or information that you have points to a particular fact or event, it shows that the fact is likely to be true or that the event is likely to happen: *All the evidence pointed to the Mafia being involved in the murders. | a new batch of opinion polls that pointed to a Labour victory in the forthcoming elections*

point up

point up *sth* | **point** *sth* **up**

formal to make a particular fact, problem etc clearer and more noticeable, so that people's attention is directed towards it: *Patients' complaints have pointed up the problems of administering a healthcare program. | a journalist who had done so much to point up the injustice of the apartheid system*

* SIMILAR TO: **highlight, draw attention to**

P

POKE

poked, poked, poking

poke along

poke along

AmE informal to move very slowly: *The car in front of me poked along at 40 miles per hour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crawl (along)**

poke around ALSO poke about *BrE*

P

1 **poke around** | **poke around** *sth*

informal to look around a place in order to see exactly what is there or to find something you want, especially by picking things up and moving them: *I was poking around in the attic looking for an old photograph album.* | *I don't want any old antique dealer poking about among my aunt's things.* | *Andrew used to poke around the Internet to see what was new online.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nose around/about** *informal*

2 **poke around** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to try to find out information about other people's private lives, business etc, in a way that annoys them: *She's one of those people who are always poking around asking questions about other people's private lives.* | *I don't like it when journalists start poking around, digging up my past.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pry**

poke at

poke at *sth*

to push your finger or a pointed object towards or into something, often again and again: *He poked at the spaghetti with a fork.* | *The two men struggled, punched and poked at each other's eyes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prod at**

poke into

poke into *sth*

to try to find out about other people's private lives, business etc, in a way that annoys them: *Wouldn't you resent it if you found a stranger was poking into your personal affairs?*

* SIMILAR TO: **pry**

POLISH

polished, polished, polishing

polish off

1 **polish off** *sth* | **polish** *sth* **off**

informal to finish food, drink, or work, quickly and easily: *When I got home, Mrs Marsh had polished off half the biscuits in the tin.* | *It didn't take me long to polish off the shopping at the local supermarket.*

2 **polish off** *sb*

informal to defeat another person or team in a game, election etc: *Steffi Graff polished off Venus Williams, 6–2, 3–6, 6–4.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat, defeat**

polish up

1 **polish up** *sth* | **polish** *sth* **up**

to improve your knowledge of something, or something that you do, by practising it or working at it: *I started going to evening classes to polish up my French.*

polish up your act (=improve how you do something) *A sixteen-year old street musician from Oxford has polished up his act and won a national jazz competition.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush up**

2 **polish up** *sth* | **polish** *sth* **up**

to rub an object with a piece of cloth in order to make it shine: *Put a clean shirt on and polish up those shoes – make yourself look respectable.*

* SIMILAR TO: **polish**

3 **polish up your image/reputation**

to make an effort to improve the way you seem to other people so that they will have a better opinion of you: *The government was trying to polish up its image after a year of negative publicity in 1995.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clean up**

PONCE

ponced, ponced, poncing

ponce about/around

1 **ponce about/around**

BrE spoken to waste time doing silly things, instead of doing serious work: *When are you two going to stop poncing around and do something useful?*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around** *informal*, **muck about/around** *BrE informal*

2 **ponce about/around**

BrE spoken informal if you say that a man is poncing about or around, you mean that the way he walks, dresses etc is more like a woman than a man – used to show disapproval: *He wants to be a professional dancer. Can't you just imagine him poncing about in pink tights?*

ponce off

ponce off *sb* | **ponce** *sth* **off** *sb*

BrE old-fashioned informal to ask someone to give you money or something such as a

cigarette, without offering to pay: *I hadn't got any money, so I ponced some off Brian.* | *I'm dying for a cigarette. Who can I ponce off?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **scrounge, cadge**

POOP
pooped, pooped, pooping

poop out

1 **poop out**

AmE informal to stop doing something because you are too tired: *If the cyclists poop out, there will be a van that can give them a ride to the finish line.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop out**

2 **poop out**

AmE old-fashioned informal if a machine, vehicle etc poops out, it stops working: *The batteries in my laptop pooped out after only two hours.*

POP
popped, popped, popping

pop in

pop in

spoken informal to go into a friend's house, an office, a shop etc for a short time, usually without having arranged your visit: *She sometimes used to pop in for a cup of tea and a chat on her way home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop in/into** *informal*, **stop by**

pop off

1 **pop off**

spoken informal, especially BrE to die – use this when you do not want to say 'die' because it sounds too serious: *I'm only sixty, you know – I'm not going to pop off yet!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **snuff it** *BrE informal*

2 **pop off**

BrE spoken informal to leave a place quickly, suddenly, or for a short time in order to go somewhere else or do something: *I'll just pop off home and get my tools.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **nip** *BrE informal*

pop on

1 **pop** *sth* **on** | **pop on** *sth*

BrE spoken informal to quickly put on a piece of clothing: *Just pop this jacket on and we'll see if it fits.*

2 **pop** *sth* **on**

BrE spoken old-fashioned to quickly turn on a piece of electrical equipment: *Just pop the kettle on, would you?* | *Would you mind popping that light on?*

pop out

pop out

spoken informal, especially BrE to go out of a room or building quickly, suddenly, or for a short time: *"Where's Colin?" "He's just popped out to the toilet – he'll be back in a minute."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **nip out** *BrE informal*

pop round

pop round

BrE spoken informal to go to someone's house for a short time, usually without having arranged your visit: *Ben said he might pop round one evening next week.* | *I'll just pop round to Gran's and see if everything's all right.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop by**

pop up

pop up

to appear suddenly in an unexpected way or in unexpected places: *New Italian restaurants are popping up all over the city.* | *a face that keeps popping up on our television screens*

PORE
pored, pored, poring

pore over

pore over *sth*

to read, or study something very carefully for a long time: *We pore over the local newspaper every week, hoping to find an affordable apartment.* | *Most evenings, my father sits in his chair and pores over an issue of National Geographic.*

PORK
porked, porked, porking

pork out

pork out

AmE informal to eat a lot of food, especially food that is bad for you: *My diet was going well, but then I totally porked out this weekend.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pig out** *informal*, **stuff yourself** *informal*

PORTION
portioned, portioned, portioning

portion out

portion out *sth* | **portion** *sth* **out**

formal to divide something into separate parts and give the parts to different people

P

+ among *After he died, the land was portioned out among his grandchildren.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **share out, divide up**

POSH

be poshed up

be poshed up

BrE informal to be wearing your best clothes: *David was all poshed up in his new school uniform.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be dolled up** *informal*

POSSESS

be possessed of

be possessed of *sth*

formal to have a particular quality or ability: *She was possessed of extraordinary powers of concentration. | They knew of only one man who was possessed of such knowledge.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **have**

POST

posted, posted, posting

post off

post off *sth* **post** *sth* **off**

BrE to send something such as a letter or package to someone: *I finally wrote the letter and posted it off. | The offer is only open while stocks last, so post off the order form today.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mail** *AmE*

post up

post *sth* **up** **post up** *sth*

to put a sign or announcement on a wall so that many people can read it: *Exam results will be posted up on my office door by 5:00 Friday. | Please ask permission before posting up any notices.*

POT

potted, potted, potting

pot on

pot on *sth* **pot** *sth* **on**

BrE to move a young plant to a larger pot: *The cuttings should be potted on once the new growth has started to emerge.*

pot up

pot up *sth* **pot** *sth* **up**

BrE to put a plant in a pot: *Pot up the seedlings after 2–3 weeks.*

POTTER

pottered, pottered, pottering

potter about/around

potter about/around

potter about/around *sth*

BrE to do small jobs in the house, garden etc in a relaxed way: *We spent the morning pottering about in the garden.*

POUNCE

pounced, pounced, pouncing

pounce on/upon

● **Pounce upon** is more formal than **pounce on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **pounce on/upon** *sth*

to criticize someone's mistakes or ideas very quickly and eagerly: *Teachers are quick to pounce on students' grammatical errors. | Any mistakes or errors of judgement were immediately pounced on by the press.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jump on, leap on**

2 **pounce on/upon** *sth*

to eagerly take an opportunity as soon as it becomes available: *When they offered Dalglish the chance to become manager, he pounced on it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jump on, seize on/upon**

POUND

pound out

1a **pound out** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if music is pounding out, it is playing very loudly: *Heavy metal music was pounding out in my son's bedroom.*

1b **pound out** *sth* **pound** *sth* **out**

if you pound out music, you play it very loudly on instruments: *I turned on the TV to see the Rolling Stones pounding out one of their old numbers.*

2 **pound out** *sth* **pound** *sth* **out**

to write something very quickly, especially on a computer or typewriter: *Follet was pounding out the final chapter of his latest spy thriller on his old typewriter.*

3 **pound out hits/wins/a victory**

especially AmE to succeed in achieving a winning score in a game of sport, by competing very hard: *In the second game, the Waves pounded out 14 hits against the Broncos.*

POUR

poured, poured, pouring

pour away

pour away *sth* | **pour** *sth* **away**

BrE to get rid of a liquid by pouring it out of its container: *The wine was so bad I just poured it away.* | *Farmers have no choice but to pour away the contaminated milk.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw away**

pour down

pour down

if the rain pours down, it rains very hard: *Rain poured down on Northern California last Friday, decreasing the threat of forest fires.*

it's pouring down *BrE It's been pouring down all morning.*

it's pouring down rain *AmE When I looked out my window, it was pouring down rain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lash down, bucket down** *BrE informal*

downpour N [C]
when a lot of rain falls quickly in a short period of time: *A heavy downpour delayed the firework display.*

pour in/into

1 **pour in** | **pour into** *sth*

if letters, phone calls, complaints etc pour in, a lot are received in a short period of time: *Letters of complaint poured in after the programme was shown.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flood in/into**

2 **pour in** | **pour into** *sth*

if people pour in or pour into a place, a lot of them arrive at the same time: *Fans poured into the streets of Miami to celebrate the winners of the World Series.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flood in/into**

pour into

pour *sth* **into** *sth*

to provide a lot of money for something over a period of time in order to make it successful: *They've poured thousands of pounds into making the business work over the years, but they still haven't made a profit.* | *Left-wing politicians proposed pouring $200 billion into an extensive welfare program.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pump into**

pour off

pour off *sth* | **pour** *sth* **off**

to remove some liquid from a large quantity of liquid by pouring it: *Carefully pour off the fat from the pan.* | *Pour off the juices from the turkey and use them to make gravy.*

pour on/upon

● **Pour upon** is more formal than **pour on** and is mostly used in writing.

pour scorn on *sb/sth*

pour scorn upon *sb/sth*

to say that something or someone is stupid and not worth considering: *Her father was quick to pour scorn on her suggestions.* | *Margaret Thatcher poured scorn on anyone who dared to oppose her policies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **heap on/upon**

pour out

1 **pour** *sth* **out** | **pour out** *sth*

if you pour out your thoughts or feelings you tell someone everything about them, especially because you feel unhappy

+ to *She came to see me that night and poured out all her troubles.*

pour out your heart/soul (=tell someone all about your most secret feelings) *I finally poured out my heart to Michael and told him I'd been in love with him for years.*

outpouring N [C,U]
when people show very strong feelings of sadness: *an outpouring of grief*

2 **pour out** *sth* | **pour** *sth* **out**

if you pour out a drink, you fill someone's glass, cup etc with it: *Mandy was pouring out tea and passing around biscuits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **serve**

3 **pour out**

if a lot of people pour out from somewhere, they all leave at the same time

+ of *The crowds began pouring out of the arena after the game.* | *The fire alarm sounded, and everyone poured out of the building.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flood out**

POWER

powered, powered, powering

power up

power up | **power up** *sth*

power *sth* **up**

to start working and become ready to use, or to make a machine or computer start working: *It'll just take a few minutes to power up.* | *Technicians are attempting to power up the computers after the network failure.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start up**

P

PREDISPOSE

predisposed, predisposed

be predisposed to/towards

be predisposed to/towards *sth*

formal if someone is predisposed to a particular illness or problem they are more likely to have it: *Children of drug users are predisposed to addiction.*

P

PRESIDE

presided, presided, presiding

preside over

1 **preside over** *sth*

to be in charge of a formal meeting or ceremony, or be in charge of a large company or organization: *John Travolta presided over the Oscar ceremony last year. | Lance Ito was the judge who presided over the trial of O.J. Simpson. | Bill Gates has presided over the Microsoft empire since the company started in 1975.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be in charge of**

2 **preside over** *sth*

to be the person who is in charge when an important event happens: *Chancellor Kohl presided over the reunification of Germany. | Thatcher presided over a massive increase in unemployment in the early 1980s.*

PRESS

pressed, pressed, pressing

press ahead

press ahead

to continue doing something in a determined way, especially when it is difficult: *We will press ahead to complete the construction as soon as possible.*

+ with *Iliescu said the government must press ahead with reforms, despite growing opposition.*

* SIMILAR TO: **press on, press forward**

● COMPARE: **go ahead**

press for

1 **press for** *sth* **press** *sb* **for** *sth*

to keep trying to persuade the government or someone in authority to do something or to give you something – used especially in news reports: *Russia and China were pressing for an end to the bombing of Kosovo. | The engineering unions have been pressing for a 35 hour working week. | Brazil's Catholic Church has encouraged its members to press the government for social reform.*

* SIMILAR TO: **push for**

2 **be pressed for time/money/space etc**

to not have enough time, money, space etc, with the result that it is difficult for you to do something: *If you are pressed for time in the mornings, try setting the alarm 30 minutes earlier. | I'd love to go out for a meal, but I'm a little pressed for cash right now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be short of**

press forward

press forward

to continue doing something in a determined way, especially even though it is difficult or you face opposition

+ with *Eastwood plans to press forward with his $20 million lawsuit against the paper. | France and Germany decided to press forward with plans for economic and monetary union.*

* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead, press on**

press on

1 **press on**

to continue doing something in a determined way, even though it is difficult

+ with *Gorbachev was keen to press on with modernizing the party. | Rebels vowed to press on with their efforts to overthrow the current government. | After university, she pressed on with her ambition to become a journalist, despite fierce competition for jobs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead, press forward**

● COMPARE: **go ahead**

2 **press on**

to continue with your journey, even though it is very difficult: *The soldiers pressed on, hoping to reach camp before nightfall. | I know you're all tired, but I think we should press on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead, press forward, push on**

press on/upon

● **Press upon** is more formal than **press on** and is mostly used in writing.

press *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to offer something to someone in a very forceful way, so that it is very difficult for them to refuse to accept it: *Mrs. Donovan pressed the gown upon Heidi and insisted she wear it to the party. | Nick kept pressing drinks on me all night.*

PRESUME
presumed, presumed, presuming

presume on/upon

presume on/upon *sth*

BrE formal to use someone's kindness, trust, or friendship etc in a way that seems wrong, especially by asking them for more than you should: *She did not want to presume on her friendship with Eve by expecting her to lend her the money.*

PRETEND
pretended, pretended, pretending

pretend to

pretend to *sth* USUALLY NEGATIVE

formal to claim that you have a particular quality, especially when this is not true: *Archer could not pretend to anything like the young actor's romantic good looks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay claim to**

PRETTY
prettied, prettied, prettying

pretty up

pretty *sth/sb* **up** | **pretty up** *sth/sb*

informal to try to make something look more attractive or acceptable to people: *I tried to pretty the place up a bit with a few vases of flowers.* | *They want to pretty the company up and give it a new image.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smarten up**

PREVAIL
prevailed, prevailed, prevailing

prevail on/upon

prevail on/upon *sb*

formal to succeed in persuading someone to do something, especially when they do not want to do it: *General Hawthorne managed to prevail on him to fly to Surubaya.* | *Weir, who had been prevailed upon to play the piano, went red with embarrassment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **persuade, cajole (into)**

PREY
preyed, preyed, preying

prey on/upon

● **Prey upon** is more formal than **prey on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **prey on/upon** *sth*

if an animal preys on another animal, it kills it and uses it for food: *Wolves prey on small deer.* | *Owls fly low and prey on insects, mice, and other small animals.*

2 **prey on/upon** *sb*

to attack, hurt, or get money dishonestly from a particular group of people who are easy to hurt or trick: *Gangs of thieves have been preying on foreign tourists at the city's central train station.* | *Drug dealers prey on young people at parties and music events, offering them drugs cheaply until they are hooked.*

prey on sb's fears (=use people's fears to get advantages for yourself) *He accused environmental groups of preying on people's fears about food safety.*

3 **prey on your mind/thoughts/conscience**

if something preys on your mind, you worry about it a lot and you cannot stop thinking about it: *The accident has been preying on my mind all week.* | *Timothy's words were beginning to prey on her mind.*

PRICK
pricked, pricked, pricking

prick out

prick out *sth* | **prick** *sth* **out**

BrE to place young plants in the ground after you have grown them from seed: *If you sowed tomato seeds last month, now is the time to prick them out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **transplant**

PRIDE
prided, prided, priding

pride yourself on

pride yourself on/upon *sth*

● **Pride yourself upon** is more formal than **pride yourself on** and is mostly used in writing.

to be proud of something that you do well, or of a good quality that you have: *They pride themselves on the 'family atmosphere' among the workforce.* | *The restaurant prides itself on offering an excellent service at a reasonable price.*

pride yourself on doing sth *Thomas always prided himself on being able to speak three languages fluently.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be proud of**

PRINT
printed, printed, printing

print off

✦ **print off** *sth* | **print** *sth* **off**

to produce a printed copy of something from

P

a computer, or to produce a large number of printed copies of something: *Do you want me to print it off for you so that you can check it? | They had already printed off thousands of copies of the book before it was banned.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **print out**

print out

print out *sth* **print** *sth* **out**

P

to produce a printed copy of something, especially from a computer: *I usually print out all my e-mail messages so that I can keep a paper copy of them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **print off**

printout N [C]
a piece of paper with printed information on it, produced by a computer: *The travel agent gave us a printout of our flight details.*

PRISE BrE PRIZE AmE

prised, prised, prising BrE
prized, prized, prizing AmE

prise out of

prise *sth* **out of** *sb*

formal to succeed in getting something from someone with difficulty, especially information that they do not want to tell you: *"Did he tell you the girl's name?" "In the end I managed to prise it out of him."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tease out, drag out**

PROCEED

proceeded, proceeded, proceeding

proceed against

proceed against *sb*

formal to begin a legal case against someone in a court of law: *There has never been enough evidence to proceed against him. | The State authorities have decided to proceed against the big tobacco companies.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **prosecute**

proceed from

proceed from *sth* NOT PASSIVE

formal to be based on a particular idea or belief, or to be originally caused by something: *Marx's theories all proceed from the idea that we are being exploited by an evil capitalist system. | Their problems proceed from a lack of understanding of each other's needs. | diseases that proceed from poverty*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come from, stem from**

proceed with

proceed with *sth*

to start doing something that you have already planned or arranged to do, especially after an official decision has been made: *Mr De Silva said the government would proceed with plans to increase the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly. | a Supreme Court decision not to proceed with corruption charges against various former ministers | He announced his intention to proceed with the sale of 72 F–15 fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia.*

PROD

prodded, prodded, prodding

prod at

prod at *sth/sb*

to press someone or something with your finger or a pointed object: *Murphy prodded at Billy Bobbit in order to try to get his attention. | He prodded at his food with his fork, then pushed his plate to one side.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **poke at**

PROFIT

profited, profited, profiting

profit by/from

profit by/from *sth*

to use a situation to get advantages for yourself: *Offenders should not be able to profit from their crimes by selling their story to the press. | The country was able to profit from its geographical position.*

profit from sb's mistakes *Liverpool were able to profit from their opponents' mistakes.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **benefit (from)**

PRONOUNCE

pronounced, pronounced, pronouncing

pronounce on/upon

pronounce on/upon *sth*

formal to give an opinion or judgment about something, especially publicly and officially because you have the knowledge or power to do so: *Politicians love to pronounce on the importance of the family. | He himself did not feel best qualified to pronounce on such matters.*

PROP

propped, propped, propping

prop up

1 **prop up** *sth* **prop** *sth* **up**

to keep something in a particular position by putting something against it or under it: *Ralph propped his feet up on the couch. | I propped up my cookbook next to the cooker and started making the soup. | One table-leg was too short, but she propped it up with a bit of broken dish.*

2 **prop yourself up**

to support yourself by leaning on something: *Frank propped himself up on his elbow. | She had propped herself up with pillows so that she could read in bed.*

3 **prop up** *sth* **prop** *sth* **up**

to help a government, business etc that is failing so that it can continue to exist, especially by giving it financial or military support: *The brothers took out a loan to prop up the failing family business. | The United States is moving away from efforts to prop up foreign governments.*

PROVIDE

provided, provided, providing

provide against

provide against *sth*

formal to make plans in order to prevent or deal with a bad situation that might happen: *Health insurance provides against loss of income due to sickness. | The English built a series of castles to provide against future attacks by the Welsh.*

provide for

1 **provide for** *sb*

to give someone the things they need, such as money, food, clothes etc: *Marshall's mother managed to provide for her children on a very small salary. | Will Kenya's small farms be able to provide for its growing population?*

* SIMILAR TO: **support**

2 **provide for** *sth*

formal to make plans in order to deal with something that might happen in the future: *We provided for a 2% increase in inflation when we calculated the cost at the beginning of the project.*

* SIMILAR TO: **allow for**

3 **provide for** *sth*

formal if a law or rule provides for something, it makes that thing possible: *A new law was introduced providing for the public execution of drug traffickers and dealers.*

PRUNE

pruned, pruned, pruning

prune back

1 **prune back** *sth* **prune** *sth* **back**

to cut some of the branches of a tree or bush to make it grow better: *To encourage growth, prune back your rose bushes by about a third.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trim (back), cut back**

2 **prune back** *sth* **prune** *sth* **back**

to reduce something or to get rid of the unnecessary parts of something: *Airlines announced they intend to prune back weekday flights from London to Glasgow. | Staff numbers have been pruned back from 580 to 400.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trim back, cut back**

PRY

pried, pried, prying

pry out

pry *sth* **out**

if you pry information out of someone, you make them tell it to you, even though they do not want to

+ of *At first he wouldn't tell me the girl's name, but in the end I finally managed to pry it out of him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drag out**

PSYCH

psyched, psyched, psyching

psych out

psych *sb* **out** **psych out** *sb*

informal to behave in a way that is intended to make someone, especially an opponent, feel nervous and uncomfortable: *Kelly's just trying to psych me out by not saying anything. | The Jets psyched out the Falcons when they scored in the first three minutes of the game.*

psych up

1 **psych** *sb* **up**

informal to make someone become excited and confident about something

psych yourself up *What do top athletes do to psych themselves up before a race?*

+ for *Bertrand tried to psych me up for the interview, asking practice questions and checking my appearance.*

2 **be psyched up**

informal to be very excited and mentally prepared for an event or activity: *The children were really psyched up for the holidays.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hyped up**

PUCKER

puckered, puckered, puckering

pucker up

pucker up

humorous to push your lips out, ready to be kissed: *Vanessa closed her eyes and puckered up.*

P

PUFF

puffed, puffed, puffing

puff away

puff away

informal to smoke a cigarette, pipe etc: *Richard Gourlain has been puffing away for 35 years.* | *Nate just puffed away calmly on his pipe.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **smoke**

P

puff out

puff out *sth* **puff** *sth* **out**

to make something become bigger by filling it with air: *Popov puffed out his chest proudly and smiled as the audience applauded.* | *Sandoval puffs out his cheeks to make the little girls giggle.* | *A breeze puffed out the curtains.*

puff up

1 **puff up** **puff up** *sth* **puff** *sth* **up**

to become bigger by filling with air, or to make something do this: *Birds puff up their feathers to stay warm.* | *The cookies will puff up while in the oven, and then flatten out again as they cool.*

2 **puff up**

if your eye, face, ankle etc puffs up, it swells because it is injured or infected: *Sylvia's finger really puffed up where the bee stung her.* | *Judging by how your ankle has puffed up, I think it might be broken.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swell up**

PUKE

puked, puked, puking

puke up

puke up **puke up** *sth* **puke** *sth* **up**

informal to bring food back up from your stomach through your mouth: *She staggered in through the door, and puked up over her dad's shoes.* | *This horrible smell is enough to make me puke up my lunch.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **throw up** *informal*, **vomit**

PULL

pulled, pulled, pulling

pull ahead

1 **pull ahead**

to succeed in getting in front of someone who you are racing against, or in getting more points than a person or team that you are competing against: *Then, with four minutes left to play, Stanford began pulling ahead.* | *The two swam neck and neck for over half the race, before Akers suddenly pulled ahead.*

2 **pull ahead**

to become more successful than other people, places, organizations etc: *The industrial north performed badly, while the south-east was clearly pulling ahead.*

+ of *They managed to pull ahead of their rivals in the soft drinks business.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **overtake**

3 **pull ahead**

to go past a vehicle that is travelling beside or in front of yours, by driving faster than it is driving

+ of *Chrissie stepped on the accelerator and pulled ahead of the truck again.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **overtake, pass**

pull apart

1 **pull** *sth/sb* **apart** **pull apart** *sth/sb*

to make people argue or fight with each other, so that a relationship ends, or a family group, country etc becomes divided: *We mustn't let this criticism pull the team apart.* | *There was little hope for the community, pulled apart by violence, drug abuse and poverty.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tear apart**

2 **pull** *sth* **apart**

to destroy something completely by breaking it or tearing it into pieces: *The crowd went wild and proceeded to pull the place apart.* | *The dogs were fighting over the body, pulling it apart.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tear apart**

3 **pull apart** *sth* **pull** *sth* **apart**

especially BrE to criticize every part of an idea, piece of work, organization etc very severely: *Every single one of our proposals was pulled apart.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take apart**

4 **pull** *sb/sth* **apart** **pull apart** *sb/sth*

to separate people or animals when they are fighting: *The referee intervened to pull the pair apart.*

5 **pull** *sb* **apart**

to make someone feel very upset and confused: *The conflicting demands of career and family were pulling her apart.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tear apart**

pull at

1 **pull at** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to pull something towards you, especially something that is heavy or difficult to move: *Gordon pulled at the gate, and it swung open enough to allow him inside.*

2 **pull at** *sb's* **sleeve, arm etc**

to pull someone's clothes or arm several times to try and attract their attention, or make them come with you: *She pulled at her mother's sleeve saying, "Come on, hurry up."*

3 **pull at** *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

if something pulls at you or your emotions, it affects your feelings strongly: *Two opposite feelings pulled at her – one of delight and the other of guilt.* | *His brilliant speeches pulled at the crowd's emotions.*

pull away

1 **pull away**

if a vehicle pulls away, it starts moving away from the place where it has stopped: *Matt jumped onto the bus just as it was pulling away.*

+ from *I watched as a black saloon car pulled away from the kerb behind us.*

2 **pull away**

to suddenly move your body away from someone who is holding or touching you

+ from *"You're hurting me," Lily said, pulling away from him.*

3 **pull away**

to succeed in getting more points than another person or team that you are competing against, or in getting in front of someone who you are racing against: *The US team began to pull away a little in the second half.* | *Gunnell came through strongly into the final bend, and pulled away to win by half a second.*

4 **pull away**

to avoid becoming involved in something

+ from *This gave the government one last chance to pull away from disaster.*

* SIMILAR TO: **avoid**

5 **pull away**

to become separated from something, instead of being fixed to it

+ from *Some of the pages had pulled away from the spine of the book.*

pull back

1 **pull back** | **pull back** *sth* | **pull** *sth* **back**

especially AmE if an army pulls back or is pulled back, it leaves its present position and moves to a position that is less threatening or dangerous: *Even though the Red Army was pulling back from Eastern Europe, Bush kept a large American force in Germany.* | *At the same time Washington was pulling back American forces from South Vietnam.*

* SIMILAR TO: **withdraw**

pullback N [SINGULAR]
AmE when a country makes its army leave its present position and move to a position that is less threatening and dangerous: *A pullback of US troops would leave the country in serious danger.*

2 **pull back** *sth* | **pull** *sth* **back**

BrE if a team that is losing pulls a goal back or pulls points back, it succeeds in scoring a goal or winning some points: *After Brian Borrows had scored twice, Kevin Gallacher added a third before Redknapp pulled one back for Liverpool.*

3 **pull back**

to decide not to do or become involved in something: *In Singapore share prices fell, as foreign investors pulled back after several days of gains.*

+ from *In the end, the group pulled back from financing the project.*

pullback N [SINGULAR]
AmE when a person, company etc decides not to continue doing something that they have been doing, because they do not feel confident about it: *There have been fears of a major pullback in bank lending.*

4 **pull** *sth* **back** | **pull back** *sth*

to help a company, organization etc that is in a difficult situation to get out of it

+ from *It won't be easy for the new leader to pull the party back from its present position and unite it.*

pull sth back from the brink of sth (=prevent a company, organization etc from getting into so much difficulty that it cannot get out of it) *The company is expecting its major shareholders to come up with an aid package to pull it back from the brink of financial ruin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn around**

5 **pull back**

to suddenly move your body away from someone who is holding or touching you

+ from *She gave a cry, and pulled back from him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull away**

pull down

1 **pull** *sth* **down** | **pull down** *sth*

to deliberately destroy a building or other structure, for example because it is not safe, or because the land it is on is needed for something else: *The old railway station was closed and pulled down around 1965.* | *That's where the mill used to be – they pulled it down to make space for new development.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, demolish** *formal*

P

2 **pull down** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

AmE informal to earn a particular amount of money in your job: *Television weather readers are pulling down $1 million annually.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get, earn**

3 **pull down** *sth* **pull** *sth* **down**

to make something fall to a lower level or standard than it was before: *Estate agents say that the recession is really pulling down house prices.*

4 **pull** *sb* **down**

BrE if worry, illness etc pulls you down, it makes you feel unhappy, or it makes you less healthy or less successful: *This unpleasantness with the neighbours is really pulling her down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drag down, get down**

5 **pull down a rebound**

AmE informal to catch the ball after someone has tried and failed to make a basket (=make points) in the game of basketball: *Malone pulled down a rebound and took the game from the Celtics' control.*

pull for

pull for *sb* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to hope that a person or team will succeed, or to encourage them to succeed: *I'm pulling for the Dolphins.* | *We're all pulling for you, Kim.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **root for**

pull in

1 **pull in**

if a vehicle pulls in, the driver moves it to the side of the road or to a place where it can stop: *I'm going to pull in at the next garage – I want to check the tyres.* | *Would you mind pulling in over there?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull over**

2 **pull in**

if a train, bus etc pulls in, it arrives at the railway or bus station: *We ran onto the platform just as the train was pulling in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **arrive**

3 **pull** *sb* **in** **pull in** *sb*

especially BrE if the police pull someone in, they take them to a police station in order to ask them questions, because they think they may have committed a crime: *The police suspected that Stevenson was the murderer, but didn't have enough evidence to pull him in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **arrest**

4 **pull in** *sb* **pull** *sb* **in**

to attract people in large numbers: *The bank launched a new account and advertised it heavily to pull in thousands of new investors.*

pull in the crowds/customers etc *Opera and ballet are just not pulling in the crowds like they used to do.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **attract**

5 **pull in** *sth* **pull** *sth* **in**

to earn a particular amount of money, especially a lot of money: *Local parents are hoping to pull in $50,000 for their school district with a weekend garage sale.* | *The film has so far pulled in about $150 million at the box office.*

pull into

1 **pull into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if a train, bus, ship, etc pulls into a place, it arrives there: *By the time the train pulled into King's Cross Station the next day, we were all exhausted.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **arrive (at)**

2 **pull into** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if a vehicle pulls into a place, the driver moves the vehicle to a place where it can stop: *At lunchtime we pulled into a roadside picnic area.*

3 **pull** *sb/sth* **into** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to involve a person, country etc in a particular situation or activity, especially when they would prefer not to be involved: *It was only a matter of time before America was pulled into the conflict.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drag into**

pull off

1 **pull** *sth* **off** **pull off** *sth*

to succeed in doing or achieving something difficult: *This is a difficult role to play, and John Travolta has pulled it off magnificently.* | *She is confident that she will be able to pull off a deal.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **carry off**

2 **pull off** *sth* **pull off**

if a vehicle pulls off a road, it leaves the road in order to stop somewhere or to turn off that road onto a smaller one: *I pulled off the road, put my seat back and fell asleep.* | *Manison was coming up to the freeway exit. He signalled and pulled off.*

3 **pull off**

if a vehicle pulls off, it starts moving away from the place where it has stopped: *It wasn't very long before the train pulled off and we were on our way.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **move off, pull away**

pull on

pull on *sth*

to put clothes on: *Shelley hastily pulled on a pair of jeans and a thin cotton sweatshirt.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put on**

pull out

1 **pull out**

if a vehicle pulls out, it moves away from the side of the road or it moves forward onto a road: *Mike got into the car and pulled out onto the highway, headed north.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **move out**

2 **pull out**

if a vehicle pulls out, it moves towards the middle of the road, in order to pass someone in front: *Always look in your side mirror before pulling out.* | *A truck suddenly pulled out in front of him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **move out**

3 **pull out**

if a train pulls out, it starts to leave the station

+ of *As the train pulled out of the station, Megan leaned out of the window and waved.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **draw out**

4a **pull out**

to stop doing or being involved in something: *The British tennis player, Joe Durie, had to pull out with a knee injury.*

+ of *The company is pulling out of the US hotel market after eight years.*

4b **pull** *sb/sth* **out** | **pull out** *sb/sth*

to remove someone or something from a situation that they have been involved in: *As the crisis deepened, both America and Britain decided to pull out their embassy staff.*

5a **pull out**

if a country's army pulls out of a place where it has been fighting, it leaves it: *The rebel leader said that if the troops did not pull out, hostages would be shot.*

+ of *when the United States finally pulled out of Vietnam*

5b **pull out** *sth/sb* | **pull** *sth/sb* **out**

if a government or leader pulls their army out of a place that it has been fighting in or controlling, it makes the army leave the country: *By the end of May the Russian government had decided to pull out its troops.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **withdraw**

pull-out N [C]
when an army leaves a place where it has been fighting in: *Following the pull-out of western forces from the region, a six-point peace plan was put forward.*

6 **pull out** | **pull** *sth* **out**

if a country, organization etc pulls out or is pulled out of a difficult economic situation, it manages to get out of that situation

+ of *The economy has been struggling to pull out of the recession.* | *J.P. Morgan shares rose, which helped to pull the stock market out of its slump.*

7 **pull out** *sth*

especially AmE to separate particular facts or ideas from others that you do not need, so that you can think about them or use them on their own: *I'd like you to read through the report before our next meeting and pull out any points that you want us to look at.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **extract**

P

pull over

1 **pull over**

if a vehicle pulls over, it moves to the side of the road and it slows down or stops: *Billy pulled over at once, jumped out of the car and offered to help.* | *I pulled over to let the ambulance pass.*

2 **pull** *sb/sth* **over** | **pull over** *sb/sth*

if the police pull a vehicle over, they make the driver move the vehicle to the side of the road and stop: *He was pulled over for speeding.*

pull round

1 **pull round**

BrE to gradually get better after you have been ill, or to become conscious after you have been unconscious: *It was several weeks before George began to pull round after his operation.*

2 **pull round** *sth* | **pull** *sth* **round**

BrE to gradually make a business, organization etc begin to be more successful after it has been failing: *It took Lassiter three years to pull the firm round and make it profitable.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn around**

pull through

1 **pull through** | **pull** *sb* **through**

to succeed in staying alive and gradually get better after you have been seriously ill or injured: *Both the boys have serious injuries, but we're confident that they'll pull through.* | *Mr Morris described how positive thinking and determination helped him through two heart attacks.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **survive, recover (from)**

2 **pull through** | **pull through** *sth* | **pull** *sb* **through** | **pull** *sb* **through** *sth*

to succeed in dealing with a difficult time or situation in your life until things begin to improve again, or to help someone do this: *My feeling is that one way or another the President will pull through.* | *Do you think Russia will be able to pull through the current*

economic crisis? | Nigel's the only person I know who might be able to pull Anna through this crisis.

pull together

1 **pull yourself together**

to control your feelings and behave calmly after you have been very upset or angry: *Nina made an effort to pull herself together, and wiped away her tears.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **compose yourself** *formal*

P

2 **pull together**

if a group of people pull together, they all work together in order to achieve an aim that they share: *I want everyone in the department to pull together as a team – support each other. | A number of neighbouring schools are pulling together to tackle the problem of drugs in schools.*

3 **pull** *sth* **together** **pull together** *sth*

to bring together various ideas, facts etc so that you can study them and compare them: *The report pulled together the results of various surveys carried out for the company since 1986.*

pull strands/threads together (=pull together various ideas, facts etc so that you can study them and compare them) *What's needed is a conclusion that pulls together the threads of your argument.*

4 **pull** *sth* **together** **pull together** *sth*

to improve something by making all the people or groups that are involved in it work together more effectively: *Given enough time, the Prime Minister should be able to pull his party together. | The plan aims to pull together all the different aid programmes that are being run in the area.*

5 **pull** *sth* **together** **pull together** *sth*

to succeed in organizing something, especially an event or an agreement: *In 1961 Shelby finally pulled a deal together with Ford Motor Co and AC Cars Ltd.*

pull up

1 **pull up**

if a vehicle pulls up somewhere, it stops: *A line of limousines drove slowly past and pulled up to the gates. | We pulled up outside the theatre.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **draw up**

2 **pull up a chair/stool etc**

to get a chair and move it so that you can sit near someone or something: *Pull up a chair – we can go through this report together.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **draw up**

3 **pull** *sth* **up** **pull up** *sth*

to remove plants and their roots from the ground, so that they cannot grow again: *I spent the afternoon in the garden pulling up weeds.*

4 **pull** *sb* **up**

to tell someone that they have done something wrong, or that they must try to improve in some way: *Quite a lot of the better restaurants will pull you up if you're not wearing a tie.*

+ on *All of his teachers have tried pulling him up on his behaviour, but he doesn't listen.*

5 **pull your socks up**

to improve in your work, behaviour etc, because it is not good enough: *He'll have to pull his socks up if he wants to pass his exams.*

6 **pull** *sb* **up short/sharp**

to make someone suddenly realize they have made a mistake or are wrong about something: *The question pulled Rosy up short, freezing the smile on her lips.*

PUMP

pumped, pumped, pumping

pump away

1 **pump away**

to work hard at something by moving continuously in and out or up and down: *Increase your pace until you can feel your heart pumping away efficiently. | Karen was in the gym, pumping away on an exercise bicycle.*

2 **pump** *sth* **away** **pump away** *sth*

to remove a liquid or gas by forcing it to flow in a particular direction using a special machine called a pump: *All together they pumped away about 150,000 gallons of flood water.*

pump in

pump *sth* **in** **pump in** *sth*

to provide a lot of money in order to make a particular plan, place, or organization successful: *Eventually the government will see the need to pump in more money to get good teachers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **inject, invest**

pump into

pump *sth* **into** *sth*

to put a lot of money into a particular plan, place, or organization to make it successful: *The administration plans to pump $1 trillion dollars into defence spending over this period. | A lot of investors have pumped money into large companies such as the Coca-Cola Co.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **invest (into), invest (in)**

pump out

1 **pump** *sth* **out** | **pump out** *sth*

to force a liquid or gas to flow out of a place by using a special machine called a pump

+ **of** *This engine was originally used for pumping water out of the mines.*

2 **pump out**

to flow out of a place quickly, continuously and in large amounts

+ **of** *Blood was pumping out of a deep wound in his side.*

3 **pump out** *sth* | **pump** *sth* **out**

to produce something continuously in large amounts – use this especially when you disapprove of it: *Every year the city's industries and vehicles pump out five million tonnes of pollutants.*

● COMPARE: **churn out**

pump up

1 **pump up** *sth* | **pump** *sth* **up**

to fill something with air, for example a tyre, using a special tool or machine called a pump: *I had to pump up the tyres on my bike before I could leave.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blow up, inflate** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **let down, deflate** *formal*

2 **pump** *sth* **up** | **pump up** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to force liquid to come up from a place under the ground to the surface, using a special machine called a pump: *Salt water is pumped up from deep below the ground.*

3 **pump** *sb* **up** | **pump up** *sb*

informal, especially AmE to make someone feel very confident or excited about something: *Jody's parents have always pumped her up with their enthusiastic support.*

pumped-up ADJ
very confident or excited, especially in an annoying or unpleasant way: *Everybody disliked the pumped-up ways of the college boys who came into town at the weekend.*

4 **pump up** *sth* | **pump** *sth* **up**

informal, especially AmE to increase the amount or number of something – use this especially about prices, taxes, sales etc: *At least the government haven't pumped up taxes yet.* | *The flu epidemic has pumped up sales of health products over the Christmas period.*

5 **pump up** *sth* | **pump** *sth* **up**

informal, especially AmE to make something improve: *Economists assumed that central banks could pump up the economy and drive down the unemployment rate.*

* SIMILAR TO: **improve**

6 **pump up**

AmE informal to lift weights so that you become stronger: *If you want to pump up, you'll need to go to the gym regularly.*

pumped up ADJ
AmE informal having a lot of muscles because you lift weights: *Linda Hamilton plays the pumped up heroine in 'Terminator 2'.*

PUNCH

punched, punched, punching

punch in

1 **punch in** *sth* | **punch** *sth* **in**

if you punch in a series of letters or numbers, you quickly press those buttons on a computer, telephone or other machine: *Andy went up to the cash machine and punched in his personal identification number.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter**

2 **punch in**

AmE to record the time that you arrive at work by putting a card into a special machine: *We're meant to punch in before 9 o'clock, so that we can actually be at our desks by 9.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clock in**

● OPPOSITE: **punch out**

punch out

1 **punch out** *sth* | **punch** *sth* **out**

BrE if you punch out a series of letters or numbers, you quickly press those buttons on a computer, telephone or other machine: *I looked Stef and Hugo up in the telephone book and punched out the numbers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **punch in**

2 **punch** *sb* **out** | **punch out** *sb*

informal to hit someone so hard that they fall to the ground: *I knew that if we spent any time together it would only result in us punching each other out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down**

3 **punch out**

AmE to record the time that you leave work by putting a card into a special machine: *The next day Lee punched out a little early, and met Bobby downtown.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clock off, clock out**

● OPPOSITE: **punch in, clock in**

punch up

punch up *sth* | **punch** *sth* **up**

AmE informal to make something more interesting or exciting: *They'd tried to punch up the movie with some exotic music, but it was still boring.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vamp up, spice up, jazz up** *informal*

P

PUSH

pushed, pushed, pushing

push about

SEE **push around**

push ahead

push ahead

to continue doing or planning something, even though there are some problems: *I'd like you all to push ahead and get the job done as soon as possible.*

+ **with** *If the group decides to push ahead with the plan, they will then look for more EC funding.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **press ahead**

push around
ALSO **push about** *BrE*

push *sb* **around/about**

to tell someone what to do in a rude way, especially without considering what they want: *Why do you always let other people push you around?* | *I was beginning to feel I was being pushed about at work, and lost some of my enthusiasm.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **boss around, shove around** *informal*

push along

1 **must/should etc be pushing along**

spoken used to say that you think it is time for you to leave a place: *Well, I must be pushing along – it's getting dark already.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **I must be getting along**

2 **push along** | **push along** *sth* | **push** *sth* **along**

to make good progress, or to help something make good progress: *The growth rate of the European market is also pushing along at 12%.* | *They are determined to push along talks between Democrats and Republicans.*

push aside

1 **push** *sth* **aside** | **push aside** *sth*

to decide not to think about something, for example because it is unpleasant or you want to think about something else instead: *For a moment Denny felt guilty – but she quickly pushed it aside.* | *This is a very difficult idea to understand properly, but it should not be pushed aside for that reason.*

2 **be pushed aside**

if someone is pushed aside by someone else, they are forced out of their present job, position etc by someone else who takes their place: *Lugar had done a good job as chairman of the committee, but he was pushed aside by Jesse Helms.* | *There was some concern that the Institute would be pushed aside by larger companies.*

push back

1 **push** *sth* **back** | **push back** *sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to deliberately delay an event, date, project etc that has already been arranged, usually because people are not ready for it, or other things are more important: *The start date for the talks has now been pushed back to the end of the month.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put back, put off, postpone**

2 **push back** *sth* | **push** *sth* **back**

to force an army or a crowd to move backwards from their present position: *Police pushed the crowd back from the gates of the palace.* | *By that summer, Russian forces had been pushed back as far as Moscow.*

3 **push back the boundaries/frontiers of** *sth*

if someone pushes back the boundaries of human knowledge or ability, they make the amount that we know or are able to do greater than it was before: *Science has, by pushing back the boundaries of human knowledge, given us much that has enriched our lives.* | *Throughout the twentieth century, we have continued to push back the frontiers of travel.*

push for

push for *sth*

to try to persuade people that something should happen or be done: *The improved economy will provide a better climate for workers to push for higher wage rates.* | *Kehoe said she will push for more after-school activities aimed at keeping kids off the streets.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **press for**

push forward

1 **push forward** | **push forward** *sth* | **push** *sth* **forward**

to continue doing or planning something in a determined way: *At that time France was pushing forward the development of its own nuclear weapons.*

+ **with** *The British and Irish governments were attempting to push forward with the peace process.*

2 **push forward** *sth* | **push** *sth* **forward**

to try to make people think about or accept a particular idea or subject that you believe is important: *He was still trying to push forward the idea of a coalition government.*

3 **push yourself forward**

to deliberately put yourself in a situation where you will be noticed by other people, especially in order to get an advantage for yourself: *Nicola knew that she would have to push herself forward if she wanted to be offered the role.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **promote yourself**

4 **push forward**

if an army pushes forward, it makes progress by moving further in a particular direction, especially in an enemy country: *The western armies were pushing forward rapidly as planned, but the troops were becoming exhausted.*

5 **push forward the boundaries/bounds/ frontiers of** *sth*

if someone pushes forward the boundaries of what is acceptable or possible, they make more things acceptable or possible than before: *researchers who are pushing forward the boundaries of scientific knowledge*

push in

push in

BrE informal to force yourself in front of other people who are already waiting in a line for something, instead of waiting for your turn: *We were just about to get on the bus when someone else pushed in.* | *I couldn't believe it when that man came along and pushed in at the front of the queue.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **barge in**

push into

push *sb* **into** *sth*

to force someone to do something that they do not really want to do by being very forceful or using your influence or power: *At the time I didn't want to stay on at school, but I'm glad my parents pushed me into it now.*

push sb into doing sth *Gloria was always pushing Jett into taking her side in arguments.*

be pushed into sth *A lot of these women arrive hoping for employment, and are pushed into virtual slavery.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **force (into)**

push off

1 **push off!**

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away, usually because you are angry with them: *"Push off," she shouted. "How dare you come here?"* | *I told him to push off and he hit me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go away, clear off!** *spoken informal, especially BrE*

2 **push off**

BrE informal to leave a place: *If you're feeling okay, we'll push off now and see you again tomorrow.* | *It's time I pushed off home – they'll be wondering where I am.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **leave**

3 **push off**

to start moving in a boat, on a bicycle, or swimming by pushing against something with your arms, legs etc: *We hurriedly pushed off and rowed out into the middle of the river.* | *Brenda pushed off from the kerb and began to ride away.*

push on

1 **push on**

to continue travelling somewhere instead of stopping, especially when it is a long way: *Finding the roads almost traffic-free, I decided to push on towards the west coast.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **press on, keep going**

2 **push on**

to continue doing something in a determined way, especially when it involves a lot of work or effort: *Charlie was a great leader – he could motivate everybody to push on.*

with *The president decided to push on with his re-election campaign, despite his heart problems.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **carry on, press on**

push out

push *sb* **out** | **push out** *sb*

to force someone to lose their position by being unpleasant to them or telling them they are no longer needed: *Many children feel they have been pushed out when a new baby arrives in the family.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squeeze out**

push over

push *sb/sth* **over** | **push over** *sb/sth*

to make someone or something fall to the ground by pushing them: *One of the older boys had pushed him over and sat on him.* | *Maggie jumped up quickly, pushing her chair over by mistake.*

pushover N [SINGULAR]
something that is easy to do or a person who is easy to persuade: *Schoodic Mountain is 1,069 feet, so climbing it is no pushover.* | *Because Tom is quiet and polite, people tend to think he's a pushover.*

push through

push through *sth* | **push** *sth* **through**

to succeed in getting a plan, law etc officially accepted, especially quickly: *It will be hard*

for the government to push through such an ambitious programme of reform. | *Reagan pushed through the greatest increase in defense spending in American history.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rush through**

push to

push the door/window to

especially BrE to close or nearly close a door or window by pushing it: *Marcus put out the light, climbed out of the window and pushed it to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close**

push towards
ALSO **push toward** *AmE*

1 **push** *sb* **towards/toward** *sth*

to strongly influence or encourage someone to do or achieve something: *Both the Fittipaldi brothers were strongly pushed towards motor racing by their father's enthusiasm.* | *Officials met on Tuesday in an effort to push negotiators towards a settlement.*

2 **push towards/toward** *sth*

to try hard to do or achieve something: *The country has been pushing towards independence for nearly ten years.*

push up

push *sth* **up** **push up** *sth*

to make the price, rate, amount etc of something increase: *House sales are increasing again, which in turn is starting to push up prices.* | *If wages start to rise more rapidly, it will push the rate of inflation up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **force (up)**

PUT

put, put, putting

put about

1 **put** *sth* **about** **put about** *sth*

BrE to tell people that something is true so that a lot of people believe it, especially something that is not true or not certain: *Of course foxes aren't pests. That's just an idea that's put about by people who support fox-hunting.* | *During the strike, rumours were put about that the company was planning to close the factory and build a new one abroad.*

put it about that *Tammy's been putting it about that I'm trying to get her job. In fact nothing could be further from the truth.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put around/round**

2 **put yourself about**

BrE informal to use a lot of effort and move around a lot in order to try to do something: *Foyle had an excellent game. He put himself about a lot and he worked hard.*

3 **put yourself about**

BrE spoken informal to have sexual relationships with a lot of people: *When Patrick was young he did put himself about a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put it about** *BrE spoken informal*

4 **put it about**

BrE spoken informal to have sexual relationships with a lot of people: *He was a man who used to put it about a bit, as Harry Chiltern once said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put yourself about** *BrE spoken informal*

5 **put about**

technical if a ship puts about, it changes direction and starts sailing in the opposite direction: *As soon as the captain was told about the iceberg, he gave the order to put about.*

put across

1 **put across** *sth* **put** *sth* **across**

to explain your ideas, opinions etc clearly so that other people can understand them: *The Democrats ran a series of television commercials, in an effort to put their message across.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get across, put over, convey** *formal*, **communicate**

2 **put yourself across**

to explain your ideas and opinions clearly so that people understand them, and realize what sort of person you are: *He's a brilliant artist, but he doesn't put himself across very well in interviews.*

3 **put across** *sth* **put** *sth* **across**

especially BrE to make other people have a particular opinion or idea about someone or something: *Be careful that you put across the right sort of image at your interview. Wear a suit, and try to appear confident and relaxed.*

put around
ALSO **put round** *BrE*

put around/round *sth*

put *sth* **around/round**

BrE to tell people that something is true so that a lot of people believe it, especially something that is not true or not certain: *I know it's not true, but that's the story they've been putting around in the press.*

put it around that *BrE Apparently he's been it putting around that he only went out with me because he felt sorry for me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put about** *BrE*, **spread**

put aside

1 **put aside** *sth* | **put** *sth* **aside**

to stop thinking or worrying about something, especially something that is important to you or that you feel strongly about, so that you can achieve something else: *Ken put aside his own personal ambitions in order to help his wife with her career.*

put aside your differences *Hume urged the people of Northern Ireland to put aside their differences and work together for peace.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set aside**

2 **put aside** *sth* | **put** *sth* **aside**

to save money, especially regularly, so that you can use it for a particular purpose later: *Her parents used to put aside a little money each month so that they could pay for her college fees.*

+ for *The money had been put aside for their retirement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put by** *especially BrE*

3 **put** *sth* **aside** | **put aside** *sth*

to put something down next to you, especially something that you have been reading on working with, so that you can do something else: *Suddenly, she stopped reading the newspaper and put it aside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put down**

4 **put aside** *sth* | **put** *sth* **aside**

to keep something so that you can use it later: *Remove the rice and put it aside to cool.*

put at

put *sth* **at** *sth*

to calculate or guess an amount, number, age etc, without being very exact: *The cost of this year's show has been put at over £350,000.* | *How much water does the average family use per year? Recent reports put the figure at around 150 cubic metres.*

* SIMILAR TO: **estimate**

put away

1 **put away** *sth* | **put** *sth* **away**

to put something in the place where it is usually kept when it is not being used, for example in a cupboard or pocket: *The girl stopped writing and put away her notebook.* | *You must put away all your toys before you get into bed.* | *"Put that gun away, you idiot," said Baker.*

2 **put** *sb* **away**

informal to put someone in prison or a hospital for people who are mentally ill: *If the police get to him, he'll be put away for life.* | *What a terrible thing to do! She ought to be put away!*

* SIMILAR TO: **lock away, lock up**

3 **put away** *sth* | **put** *sth* **away**

especially BrE to get rid of thoughts, feelings, or attitudes, that you had before: *She decided to put away such childish thoughts and get on with her work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put aside**

4 **put away** *sth* | **put** *sth* **away**

to save money, especially regularly, so that you can use it for a particular purpose later: *They'd been putting away a little money each week to pay for their wedding.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

5 **put away** *sth* | **put** *sth* **away**

informal, especially spoken to eat or drink a lot of something, especially a surprisingly large amount: *The girl sitting next to me managed to put away half a bottle of vodka before we got to Hong Kong.*

sb can really put it away *Billy can really put it away – no wonder he's so fat!*

6 **put away** *sth* | **put** *sth* **away**

informal to get a goal, especially after other failed attempts: *Giggs passes to Yorke. Let's hope he can put it away this time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **score**

7 **put** *sb* **away**

old-fashioned informal to kill someone: *Jake took out his gun and put him away with a single bullet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kill**

put back

1 **put** *sth* **back** | **put back** *sth*

to put something in the place where it was before: *He put the watch back in his waistcoat pocket and rose to his feet.* | *Can you put the milk back in the fridge?* | *I put the briefcase back exactly as I'd found it, and waited for him to come back.*

2 **put back** *sth* | **put** *sth* **back**

to arrange for something to happen at a later time or date than was planned: *The meeting's been put back to 3 o'clock. I hope you don't mind.* | *The prison authorities have put back his release date till next December.*

* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put off**

3 **put back** *sth* | **put** *sth* **back**

to delay something so that it happens later than was planned: *The £100m West Midlands Metro project has been put back another year because of budget cuts.* | *a series of strikes that could put back the opening of the new bridge by two or three months*

4 **put** *sth* **back** | **put back** *sth*

to make someone or something have something that they used to have before, for

example a quality, a feeling, or a substance: *Read this. It'll put the smile back on your face! | It's a very useful plant. It puts nitrogen back into the soil. | The band says their mission is to put the soul back into rock 'n' roll.*

5 **put back** *sth* **put** *sth* **back**

BrE if you put back a clock or watch, you change it so that it shows an earlier time: *Don't forget to put your watch back. There's an hour's time difference between France and England. | The clocks get put back this weekend.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set back** *AmE*

● OPPOSITE: **put forward** *BrE*, **set ahead** *AmE*

6 **put back** *sth* **put** *sth* **back**

BrE informal to drink a lot of alcohol quickly, especially a surprisingly large amount

put it back *He must have drunk ten pints. He can certainly put it back.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put away, knock back**

put before

1 **put** *sb/sth* **before** *sb/sth*

to pay more attention to one thing or person than another, and show that you think that they are more important: *Some airlines are putting profits before passenger safety. | Most big companies expect their employees to put their work before their family life. | These days few people are willing to put other people's interests before their own.*

2 **put** *sth* **before** *sb/sth*

if something is put before a committee, parliament etc, they discuss it or examine it, especially in order to make a decision about it: *A report into the accident will be put before the Civil Aviation Authority. | New legislation will be put before Congress in the autumn, aimed at reducing the federal deficit.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay before**

put behind

1 **put** *sth* **behind** *sb*

if you put something behind you, especially an unpleasant experience, you forget about it and do not let it affect you in the future: *After the trial, Lopez said he just wanted to put the whole thing behind him and get on with the rest of his life. | His first wife committed suicide in 1961, and he was really never able to put this behind him.*

2 **put** *sth* **behind** *sth*

if you put money or effort behind something, you support it by giving money or by working to make it a success: *American companies put millions of dollars behind the bid to host the games.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **invest in**

put by

put by *sth* **put** *sth* **by**

especially BrE to save money so that you can use it later for a particular purpose: *Why don't you put by a little money each week? That way you'll soon be able to afford a motorcycle. | Luckily I had some money put by in case of emergencies.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put aside**

put down

1 **put down** *sth* **put** *sth* **down**

to stop holding, carrying, or using something and put it somewhere: *Stanley put down his newspaper and glared at her. | He puts the axe down and wipes his hands on his trousers, eyeing me as he does so. | What are you doing with that knife? Put it down!*

● OPPOSITE: **pick up**

2 **put down the phone/put the phone down**

BrE to put the receiver back onto the telephone after you have finished your conversation. The receiver is the part of the telephone that you pick up and speak into: *"I can't talk now," she said and put the phone down. | As Prinz was putting the phone down, he wondered what had brought Herrmann to Cologne. | When he heard my voice he put down the phone immediately.*

put the phone down on sb (=put the phone down and stop talking to someone because you feel very angry) *I'm sorry I lied! Don't put the phone down on me!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hang up**

3 **put** *sb* **down**

to criticize someone in an unkind way that makes them seem stupid or unimportant, when other people are present: *Her ex-husband was always putting her down in front of her friends. | I'm fed up with being put down and made to feel stupid by him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **belittle** *formal*

putdown N [C]
something unkind that someone says to another person, which makes that person seem stupid or unimportant: *The remark was clearly intended as a putdown, and she felt like punching him in the face.*

4 **put yourself down**

especially spoken to tell other people that you are not very successful, do not have good qualities etc, when in fact this is not true – use this about someone who lacks confidence in their own abilities: *Of course you're a good teacher. You shouldn't put yourself down all the time.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be so hard on yourself**

5 **I couldn't put it down/ it's impossible to put down etc**

especially spoken used to say that a book is so exciting or interesting that you do not want to stop reading it: *It's one of the best novels I've ever read. I just couldn't put it down.* | *It's more than just a cookbook. You'll find that once you pick it up, it's very hard to put down.*

6 **put down a rebellion/coup/revolt/riot etc**

to use force to stop a violent attempt to change the government a violent protest by a large group of people etc: *Panama's military government has succeeded in putting down a coup led by some of the country's most senior officers.* | *In 1745 the Prince led his army across the border into England, but the rebellion was soon put down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suppress**

7 **put** *sth* **down** **put down** *sth*

to kill an animal without causing it any pain, because it is old or ill: *Our cat got cancer, and we had to have him put down.* | *The horse had to be put down after breaking a leg at Kelso yesterday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put sth to sleep**

8 **put** *sth* **down** **put down** *sth*

to write something on paper instead of just thinking about it, for example your ideas about something, or something that you have to do: *"Have you got the phone fixed yet?" "No. I'll put it down on my list of things to do."*

put sth down on paper *It often helps to put your thoughts down on paper.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write down, jot down**

9 **put** *sb* **down** **put down** *sb*

to write someone's name on a list so that they can take part in an activity, join a school or other organization etc: *I'm organizing a trip to the lakes. Shall I put you down?*

+ to do sth *BrE So far only 12 students have put their names down to do the course.*

put sb down to do sth *BrE I've put myself down to run in the charity race next Saturday.*

+ for *His parents put him down for the best school in the area.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign up**

10 **put down** *sth* **put** *sth* **down**

to pay part of the total cost or value of something when you arrange to buy it or rent it

put down a deposit (=a deposit is the part of the total cost or value of something that you put down) *They put down a £10,000 deposit on the house when they bought it.*

11 **put down** *sth* **put** *sth* **down**

BrE to officially ask for something to be discussed or voted on by the other people in a meeting or in parliament: *Yesterday Japanese MPs put down a motion calling for him to resign.* | *Republicans have put down so many amendments that it is unlikely that the bill will be passed in this session of Congress.*

* SIMILAR TO: **table** *formal*

12 **put down** *sth* **put** *sth* **down**

to put a carpet or other covering onto the floor or the ground: *They're having a wooden floor put down in the bedroom.* | *We chose the carpet at the weekend, and the man's coming to put it down later this week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay**

13 **put down** **put** *sth* **down**

BrE if a plane puts down somewhere, or the pilot puts it down, it lands there, especially when this was not planned: *One of the engines caught fire and he had to put down in the desert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **land**

● COMPARE: **come down**

14 **put** *sb* **down** **put down** *sb*

BrE if a driver puts someone down somewhere, he or she stops the car, bus, etc and lets them get out there: *They asked the driver to put them down at the station.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set down**

15 **put** *sb* **down**

if you put a baby down to sleep, you put it in a bed so that it can sleep: *Harry seems a lot quieter now. I think I'll put him down for a nap.*

put down as

put *sb/sth* **down as** *sth*

to decide that someone or something is a particular type of person or thing, often when they are not like that: *When she first met him, she immediately put him down as a boring middle-aged businessman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have down as**

put down for

1 **put** *sb* **down for** *sth*

to write someone's name on a list so that they can take part in an activity, join a school or other organization etc: *His parents have put him down for the best school in the area.*

put yourself down for sth *You're pretty good at general knowledge questions. Why don't you put yourself down for the quiz?*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign up**

2 **put** *sb* **down for 50p/£5 etc**

to write someone's name on a list with an amount of money that they have promised to give: *Sue was asking people to sponsor her on a twenty mile charity walk, and I told her to put me down for 10p a mile.*

P

P

put down to

1 **put** *sth* **down to** *sth*

to think that something, especially a problem or a bad situation, is caused by something else: *I didn't feel too good the next morning, but I put it down to a hangover.* | *Women are twice as likely as men to get skin cancer. Experts put this down to the fact that we're more fond of sunbathing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

2 **put** *sth* **down to experience**

especially spoken to try not to feel upset by something bad that has happened, and try to forget about it or learn something useful from it: *There'll be other girlfriends. It's just one of those things you have to put down to experience.*

put forth

1 **put forth** *sth* **put** *sth* **forth**

formal to suggest an idea, explanation etc, especially one that other people later consider and discuss: *A very similar idea to Linde's was put forth independently by Steinhardt and Albrecht of the University of Pennsylvania.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put forward**

2 **put forth** *sth*

formal if a bush, tree etc puts forth new leaves, flowers, branches etc, it starts to grow them: *The plant grows up to a height of 80cms, putting forth fleshy pale green leaves.*

put forward

1 **put forward** *sth* **put** *sth* **forward**

to suggest an idea, explanation, plan etc, for other people to consider and discuss: *A number of theories were put forward at the time about the possible causes of his death.* | *This argument was originally put forward by Aristotle in his book on ethics.* | *Everyone thought it was a great idea when we first put it forward.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set out**

2 **put** *sb* **forward** **put forward** *sb*

to say officially that you think someone should be considered for a job, allowed to join an organization etc

+ for *The names of four possible candidates have been put forward for the post.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nominate**

3 **put** *sth* **forward** **put forward** *sth*

to arrange for something to happen at an earlier time or date than was planned: *The meeting has been put forward to tomorrow. I hope you can still come.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring forward**

● OPPOSITE: **put back, postpone**

4 **put** *sth* **forward**

BrE if you put forward a clock or watch, you change it so that it shows a later time: *Hayden forgot to put his clock forward and turned up too late for his first match.* | *We have to put the clocks forward one hour this weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set ahead** *AmE*, **set forward** *AmE*

● OPPOSITE: **put back, set back** *AmE*

put in

1 **put in** *sth* **put** *sth* **in**

to officially make a request, order, claim, or offer: *I've put in a request for a transfer.* | *Buyers have until next Monday to put in their bids.* | *Following the accident Dr Kalley put in a claim for over $50,000 in compensation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **submit**

2 **put in** *sth* **put** *sth* **in**

to put a new piece of equipment or machinery in a room, building etc and connect it to the electricity supply, water supply etc: *They've had a new central heating system put in.* | *If you're buying an electric cooker, it's usually better to get a qualified electrician to put it in for you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **install**

3 **put in** *sth*

to do something in a particular way – use this when talking about someone's performance in a film, play etc, or how well they played a game or ran in a race: *Rainey put in a fast time in the qualifying race.* | *Judi Dench puts in a fine performance as Queen Elizabeth.*

4 **sb put in**

old-fashioned literary to say something while someone else is speaking: *"Oh, so you admit you're guilty!" Steven put in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt**

put in for

put in for *sth*

to make an official request to be allowed to do something or have something: *Her husband's decided to put in for early retirement.* | *Why don't you put in for a pay rise?*

* SIMILAR TO: **apply (for)**

put in/into

1 **put in** *sth* **put** *sth* **in**

put *sth* **into** *sth*

to use effort, work, or time in order to try to do something: *The whole team put in a tremendous amount of effort.* | *Her husband died about five years ago and she's put all her emotional energy into her job.*

2 **put in** *sth* **put** *sth* **in**
put *sth* **into** *sth*

to provide money so that people can do something, or buy shares in a company so that you can get a profit: *More money needs to be put into cancer research.* | *The government has already agreed to put in large amounts of taxpayers' money in order to improve the rail network.* | *Always remember when putting your money into the stock market that share prices can go down as well as up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invest in**

3 **put** *sb* **in/into** *sth*

to make someone go to a prison, a hospital, or some other place where they can be looked after: *Opposition leaders are being arrested and put in prison.* | *My mother needed full-time nursing care, and we decided to put her into a nursing home.*

4 **put in** **put into** *sth*

if a ship puts in at a port or puts into port, it stops there for a short time

+ at sth *The steamer put in at Lisbon to refuel and take on supplies.*

put into port *Anyone who put into port on the island was sure of a warm welcome.*

put off

1 **put off** *sth* **put** *sth* **off**

to delay doing something until later, or arrange for something to happen at a later time, especially because there is a problem, or you do not want to do it now: *Why don't you talk to him about it? You can't keep putting it off forever.*

put off doing sth *I'd put off going to the dentist for as long as I could.*

+ until *Laurence has to go to Paris on Tuesday, so we've decided to put the meeting off until the following week.* | *They've decided to put off going to Venice until after she's had her operation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put back**

2 **put** *sb* **off** **put off** *sb*

to stop someone from liking another person or thing or stop them from being interested in it: *Don't be put off by the name. It's actually a very pretty plant.* | *My last boyfriend put me off men for life.*

put sb off doing sth *A lot of people are put off travelling to Japan by the high cost of getting there.* | *A man who was stabbed while he was jogging says the attack hasn't put him off running in the future.*

off-putting ADJ
something that is off-putting makes you dislike someone or something, or makes you not want to do something: *There was something rather off-putting about his manner.*

3 **put off** *sth* **put** *sth* **off**

to make a light stop working by pressing a switch: *Don't forget to put off the lights when you leave.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put out, switch out, turn out**

● OPPOSITE: **put on, switch on, turn on**

4 **put** *sb* **off**

to delay meeting someone, talking to someone, paying someone etc because you do not want to do it until later: *Maybe I should go and see him. I can't put him off much longer.* | *Every time she asked for her money back they kept putting her off with some lame excuse or other.*

5 **put** *sb* **off** **put** *sb* **off** *sth*

especially BrE to make it difficult for someone to pay attention to what they are doing, for example by talking or making a noise: *Stop giggling! You're putting me off!* | *McEnroe complained that the photographers were putting him off his game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **distract**

off-putting ADJ
making it difficult for you to pay attention to what you are doing: *It's a bit off-putting having someone following you around all the time.*

6 **put** *sb* **off**

BrE if a bus or taxi driver puts you off somewhere, they stop the bus or taxi at a particular place and allow you to get out there: *Do you want me to put you off at the station?*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop off, set down**

put on

1 **put on** *sth* **put** *sth* **on**

to put clothes on your body: *She put on her coat and went outside.* | *I liked the shoes, and when I put them on they fitted perfectly.*

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

2 **put on** *sth* **put** *sth* **on**

to put make-up, cream etc on your skin: *She sat down in front of the mirror and began to put on her make-up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **apply** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **take off, remove**

3 **put on** *sth* **put** *sth* **on**

to make a light or a piece of equipment that uses electricity or gas start working by pressing or turning a switch: *Can you put the lights on? I can't see what I'm doing.* | *She put on the kettle, craving her morning cup of coffee.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch on, turn on**

● OPPOSITE: **switch off, turn off**

P

P

4 **put on** *sth* **put** *sth* **on**

to put a CD, tape, or record in a machine and make it start playing: *Perry went over to the stereo and put on some jazz.*

5 **put on** *sth* **put** *sth* **on**

to arrange for a performance, show, competition etc to take place: *They often put on exhibitions of work by local artists.* | *The play was originally put on in New York in 1960, and was later made into a movie.*

6 **put** *sb* **on** *sth*

if a doctor puts you on a particular type of medicine or medical treatment, they give it to you: *Helen was feeling very depressed, so her doctor put her on Prozac.* | *I went to the hospital about my asthma, and they've put me on steroids.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prescribe**

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

7 **put** *sb* **on a diet**

to tell someone to eat only certain types of food because they are unhealthy or too fat: *His wife says he's overweight, and keeps threatening to put him on a diet.*

8 **put on weight/2 kilos/5lbs etc**

to become fatter and heavier: *Can it be possible that I've put on eight pounds in three weeks?* | *Six months ago George gave up smoking. Since then he's put on a lot of weight because he's constantly nibbling.*

9 **put the blame/responsibility on** *sb/sth*

to say that someone should be blamed or should be considered responsible for something: *That girl was going to try to put the blame on him, he could tell.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay, place**

10 **put a limit/restriction/ban etc on** *sth*

to make a rule that controls how much of something should be allowed, how something should be done, or one that stops something completely: *New limits are to be put on tobacco advertising.* | *Japan, Norway, and the other countries agreed to put a ban on commercial whaling.*

* SIMILAR TO: **impose, slap on** *informal*

11 **put on** *sth*

if you put on a particular kind of voice, look etc, you deliberately behave in a way that is different from how you usually behave, or that is different from how you really feel: *Whenever she's on the phone she always puts on a posh voice.*

put on a brave face (=try not to show to other people that you are worried or upset) *Princess Diana continued to put on a brave face, despite reports in the press of serious problems with her marriage.*

12 **be putting it on**

BrE spoken if someone is putting it on, they are pretending to be ill, upset, injured etc, especially in order to make other people feel sorry for them: *Of course he's not sick. He's just putting it on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be faking it**

13 **be putting** *sb* **on**

AmE informal if someone is putting you on, they are not telling the truth and are trying to deceive you: *You scored three goals? You're putting me on!*

* SIMILAR TO: **be joking, be kidding, be having sb on** *BrE spoken*

14 **put on a show/display/performance etc**

to show what you are able to do or what power you have: *When Saddam refused to give in, the Allies put on a devastating show of force.*

put on an impressive/poor etc performance *The French team will have to put on an impressive performance if they are to beat Brazil.*

15 **put on** *sth* **put** *sth* **on**

to provide something for people to use, eat, drink etc: *Special buses are being put on to take fans to and from the concert.* | *The hotel is putting on an all-you-can-eat buffet by the pool for all the guests.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay on**

16 **put emphasis/stress on** *sth*

to say that you think that something is particularly important: *We've always put great stress on the value of communication.* | *Schools are not putting enough emphasis on healthy eating.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay, place**

17 **put** *sth* **on** *sth*

to risk an amount of money on the result of a race, game etc, in order to try to win money: *I never put money on horses, I always lose.* | *He went to the bookies and put $100 on a horse called Lady Luck.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bet**

18 **put** *sth* **on** *sth*

to increase the cost or price of something by a particular amount: *There are rumours that the government plans to put 10p on the price of a packet of cigarettes.*

19 **put** *sb* **on** *sth*

if you put someone on a bus, plane etc, you take them to it and make sure that they get on it: *Next day the authorities put him on the first plane back to Tokyo.*

20 **put** *sb* **on** *sth*

to make someone work at a particular time of day, or make someone do a particular type

of work: *They've put him on nights, so we rarely get to see each other much these days.* | *Ashley was put on the playground duty.*

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

21 **put a number/figure etc on** *sth*

to say how much you think something will be: *"How much do you think the vase is worth?" "It's difficult to put a figure on it. It could be as much as £50,000."*

22 **put** *sb* **on**

to give someone the telephone, or press a special button on your telephone, so that they can speak to another person: *"Is Ted there?" " Just one moment, I'll put him on for you."*

23 **put** *sth* **on** | **put on** *sth*

to start cooking something: *I put your supper on an hour ago. It should be ready by now.*

24 **put a curse/spell on** *sb/sth*

to use magic powers or magic words to make something bad happen to someone or something: *Hollywood star James Wood accused her of trying to put a curse on him.*

put onto/on to

put *sb* **onto/on to** *sb/sth*

BrE spoken to tell someone about an interesting or useful place, product, person etc, which they did not know about before: *It's a great restaurant. I think it was Wendi who first put me onto it.* | *"Did Eric Clapton put you onto Soldanos amps?" "No, actually it was the other way around, I put Eric onto the Soldanos."*

* SIMILAR TO: **recommend, turn on to**

put out

1 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to make a light stop working by pressing or turning a switch: *Don't forget to put the lights out before you leave the building.* | *She turned over and put out the bedside lamp.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

● OPPOSITE: **put on, switch on**

2 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to make a fire, cigarette, or candle stop burning: *Please stay in your seats and put out your cigarettes.* | *We fetched buckets of water and old blankets and quickly put out the flames.* | *Eventually the Fire Service put the fire out, but by then both women had died from smoke inhalation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **extinguish** *formal*

3 **put** *sb* **out**

to cause extra work or trouble for someone, especially by asking them to help you: *Thanks for letting me use your car. I hope I'm not putting you out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inconvenience** *formal*

4 **put yourself out**

to use a lot of effort or time in order to help someone, when this is not convenient for you: *He felt he had already put himself out by agreeing to see Dougal at such short notice.*

+ for *You're my friend – of course I don't mind putting myself out for you.*

P

5 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to produce an official statement, warning, or request, or official information, for people to read or listen to: *Then in July, BP put out a public statement saying that it had made a huge discovery of oil in Colombia.* | *A lot of the information that is put out on the Internet is not totally accurate.* | *Mr Probyn later put out a TV appeal for his wife to come home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **issue**

6 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to produce a record, book, or other product and make it available for people to buy: *The band put out a string of hit records in the early sixties.* | *an exciting new men's magazine put out by Dennis Publishing*

* SIMILAR TO: **produce, bring out**

7 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to broadcast a programme on the television or the radio: *Shows that contain a lot of sex or bad language are usually put out after 9 o'clock.*

* SIMILAR TO: **broadcast**

8 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to move your hand, arm, foot etc forward, especially in order to touch someone or something: *When he put out his hand to shake hands with her, she just ignored him.* | *Kate put her arms out and embraced her sister.*

9 **put your tongue out/put out your tongue**

to push your tongue out of your mouth, especially as a rude sign to someone: *The little boy put his tongue out and ran away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick out your tongue**

10 **be put out**

to feel annoyed, upset, or offended by something: *We were a little put out at not being invited to the wedding.* | *Piers didn't look in the slightest bit put out by this statement.*

11 **put out** *sth* | **put** *sth* **out**

to put something somewhere for people to use, eat, look at etc: *I'll put out the knives and forks on the table.* | *Every night she used to clean his shoes and put them out for him in the morning.*

12 **put out** *sth* **put** *sth* **out**

to take something outside your house and leave it there: *Eric was just about to put out the washing when the rain started.* | *Did you remember to put out the trash?*

13 **put out** *sth* **put** *sth* **out**

if you put out your shoulder, back, neck etc, you injure it, especially by stretching or twisting it too much: *Catherine put her back out trying to carry a box of books up the stairs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strain**

P

14 **put out** *sth* **put** *sth* **out**

if a plant or tree puts out leaves, flowers etc, it starts to grow them: *The roses have already started to put out new buds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **produce**

15 **put** *sb* **out**

BrE to make someone unconscious before a medical operation: *One patient later claimed that they hadn't put him out properly before his operation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **anaesthetize**

16 **put out**

AmE spoken informal if a woman puts out, she has sex with a man: *Doug said Kelley put out last night.*

17 **put out (to sea)**

if a ship puts out to sea, it starts to sail away from a port or from the land: *Ships were regularly putting out to sea with their bow doors open.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set sail**

put out of

put *sb* **out of** *sth*

to stop someone from being able to do something, or continue taking part in something: *Maradona had a knee injury, which threatened to put him out of the World Cup.* | *Lendl's victory put Leconte out of the tournament.*

> **put sb out of business** (=make someone be unable to continue their business because they do not get enough money from it) *Local fishermen say the new fishing quotas will put them out of business.*

put out to

put *sth* **out to** *sb/sth*

if work is put out to a particular company, it is offered to them: *Existing waste disposal operations will be put out to private companies.*

> **put sth out to tender** *BrE*/**put out to bid** *AmE* (=ask companies to say how much they will charge for work so that you can choose which one to offer it to) *Construction work on the hospital has already been put out to tender.*

put over

1 **put over** *sth* **put** *sth* **over**

BrE to succeed in telling other people your ideas, opinions etc by explaining them clearly: *Minority groups had the chance to come into the studio and put over their point of view.* | *Christie's the ideal man to put this message over to young athletes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get across, put across, convey** *formal*

2 **put one over (on)** *sb*

informal to trick someone by making them believe something that is not true: *She thought that the salesman was trying to put one over on her, and said she wasn't interested in their offer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slip one over on sb** *especially AmE*, **trick**

3 **put one over (on** *sb***)**

informal to succeed in defeating someone: *This is an ideal chance to put one over on the Americans after last year's 7–0 defeat.* | *Reg had achieved a considerable reputation in the boxing ring. No one could put one over on him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat**

put past

I wouldn't put it past *sb*

spoken informal used to say that you would not be surprised if someone did something bad or unusual because it is typical of them to do that kind of thing: *"Do you think Harry took the money?" "I wouldn't put it past him."* | *I wouldn't put it past him to slip something into her drink when she wasn't looking.*

put round

SEE **put around**

put through

1 **put** *sb* **through**

to connect someone to the person they want to speak to, on the telephone: *One moment, caller, I'm just putting you through.*

> **+ to** *When Lesley asked to speak to the manager, she was put through to the manager's personal assistant instead.*

2 **put through a call/put a call through**

to make a telephone call to someone: *Apparently someone had a put a call through to the French embassy, warning them about the attack.*

3 **put** *sb* **through** *sth*

to make someone do something difficult or experience something unpleasant: *When sales*

staff are recruited, they are put through a rigorous training program. | I must have put my mother through hell when I was a teenager.

put sb through it/put sb through hell *He says his last wife really put him through it, and he doesn't want to get married again.*

4 **put through** *sth* **put** *sth* **through**

put *sth* **through** *sth*

to formally agree to a new law or plan, usually after officially discussing it and voting on it: *The UN Security Council put through a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire. | Legislation is to be put through parliament aimed at abolishing the House of Lords.*

5 **put** *sb* **through school/college/university**

to pay for someone to study at a college or university: *Mick had a huge car loan and three kids to put through college. | She moved to Boston, where she worked as a waitress and put herself through school.*

6 **put** *sth* **through** *sth*

to make something go through a process or system, in order to change it or test it: *Every car is put through a series of safety checks before it leaves the factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **subject to**

put to

1 **put** *sth* **to** *sb*

to ask someone a question, especially officially and about something important: *The same question was put to thousands of Americans. "Are you, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party?"*

2 **put** *sth* **to** *sb*

to ask someone to officially consider a plan, suggestion etc, and make a decision about it or say what they think about it: *"I'll put your suggestion to the committee," she said.*

put sth to the vote (=ask people to vote about something in order to make a decision about it) *Whenever the issue of the death penalty is put to the vote in parliament, most people are against it.*

3 **put it to** *sb* **that**

to suggest to someone that something is true, especially in a court of law when you are trying to prove the facts about something: *I put it to you that you murdered your husband for his money.*

4 **put an end/stop/halt to something**

to stop something from continuing to happen: *Russia wants the US to put an end to the bombing of Iraq.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end, stop, halt**

5 **put** *sb* **to a lot of trouble/inconvenience/expense**

to make someone have to use a lot of effort, time or money, for example in order to help someone else or in order to get something done: *Please forgive me. I hope I haven't put you to too much trouble. | The lawsuit had put them to a great deal of expense, and in the end they had been unsuccessful.*

6 **put your name/signature to** *sth*

to sign your name at the end of an official document, letter etc, saying that you agree with it: *When she and two other women refused to put their names to the agreement, they were fired on the spot.*

P

put together

1 **put together** *sth* **put** *sth* **together**

to produce something by getting or collecting a group of things and organizing them: *The Rolling Stones have recently put together an album of their greatest hits. | Bryson put together a collection of newspaper articles, under the title 'Notes from a Big Country'. | With a little effort, you can put together a meal that's light, refreshing, and also very good for you.*

2 **put together** *sth* **put** *sth* **together**

to produce something such as a plan or an agreement by collecting ideas, information, or suggestions: *A group of local people put together a rescue plan to try to save the theatre. | Federal authorities are trying to put together a criminal case against Zimmermann.*

3 **put together** *sth* **put** *sth* **together**

to make something by joining all the pieces together: *There should be some instructions which show you how to put it all together. | The cupboard hadn't been put together very well, and nothing was straight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **assemble** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **take apart**

4 **put together** *sth* **put** *sth* **together**

to form a group or team by choosing several people and getting them to work or play with each other: *He put his first band together while he was still at college. | The Chamber of Commerce is putting together a committee to study the possible impact of the airport on the environment.*

5 **put** *sth* **together**

to think about several pieces of information or ideas together, for example so that you can understand a situation, or decide what you should do: *When you put it all together, it sounds like he must be guilty. | Paul needed to be somewhere quiet, somewhere where he could put his thoughts together.*

6 **than the rest put together/ than the others put together**

used to emphasize that something or someone is much better, cleverer, bigger etc than the others in a group, or others of a similar type: *The Newton Boys were the most successful bank robbers in US history. They stole more money than the rest put together.* | *Emma's sure to do well. She's smarter than all the others put together.*

P

put towards *BrE*
put toward *AmE*

put *sth* **towards/toward** *sth*

to use some money in order to pay part of the cost of something: *The money raised at the fair is put towards the running of the local church.* | *She says that if she wins, she's going to put it toward a trip to Italy.*

put up

1 **put up** *sth* **put** *sth* **up**

to build something such as a building, wall, or a statue: *After the war, huge apartment buildings were put up around Paris.* | *Developers want to put up a radio mast for mobile phones.*

put up a tent *At 25,000 feet they decided to put up their tent and wait for the dawn.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build, erect** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **pull down, take down**

2 **put up** *sth* **put** *sth* **up**

BrE to increase something, for example prices, taxes, or rents: *Ford has announced plans to put up car prices by as much as 5%.* | *The government should put up taxes on things that damage the environment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **increase, raise**

● OPPOSITE: **put down**

3 **put up** *sth* **put** *sth* **up**

to put a sign, notice, picture etc on a wall or other place so that it can be seen: *The owner had put up signs everywhere saying 'Private Property, Keep Out'.* | *It's a nice letter. I'll put it up on the noticeboard.*

● OPPOSITE: **take down**

4 **put up** *sth* **put** *sth* **up**

to attach a shelf, cupboard etc to a wall: *We've had some new cupboards put up in our kitchen.* | *Men do have some uses – putting up shelves for instance.*

5 **put** *sth* **up** **put up** *sth*

BrE if you put up an umbrella or a hood, you open it out so that you can cover your head with it. An umbrella is a thing you hold up to protect yourself from the rain. A hood is a part of a coat or jacket that covers your head: *Some people in the crowd had started putting up their umbrellas, which made it difficult for the others to see.* | *It was raining. Philip put the hood up on his anorak.*

6 **put up** *sth* **put** *sth* **up**

to provide the money that is needed to pay for something: *It's a great idea, but who's going to put up the money?*

+ for *Twentieth Century Fox is putting up the money for the movie.*

put up a reward *Securicor has now put up a reward of £25,000 for information about the robbers.*

7 **put up a fight/a struggle/resistance etc**

to try to fight or compete with someone, or try to stop something from happening: *England put up a great fight, but in the end the better team won.* | *He didn't put up much resistance when he was arrested.* | *Menzies's counsel put up a spirited defence of his client.*

8 **put** *sth* **up for sale/auction**

to make something available for people to buy, especially a house, land, business, or a valuable object. An auction is a public meeting where goods are sold to the person who offers the most money: *When my father died, the house and all its contents were put up for auction.* | *The store was losing money and they decided to put it up for sale.*

9 **put** *sb* **up**

to provide someone with a place to stay, usually for a short time: *Some friends have offered to put us up for the night.* | *Guests were put up in the Inter-Continental Hotel in the middle of Beirut.*

10 **put up**

BrE old-fashioned if you put up somewhere, you stay there for a short time

+ at *We put up at a pub called The Three Horseshoes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay**

11 **put up** *sth* **put** *sth* **up**

especially BrE to suggest an idea, argument, or reason for something, especially in order to persuade people to accept it: *Leith put up several arguments, but she had an answer for every one of them.* | *I've yet to hear anyone put up a convincing case for keeping the House of Lords.*

12 **put up** *sb* **put** *sb* **up**

if a political party puts someone up at an election, they chose them to represent the party at the election: *The Alliance Party put up substantially fewer candidates at the last election.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nominate**

put up to

put *sb* **up to** *sth*

to encourage someone to do something stupid or dangerous, especially when this is very different from how they usually behave: *"Has Candy put you up to this?" Rory demanded. | He's normally such a well-behaved child. Someone must have put him up to it.*

put up with

put up with *sth/sb*

to accept an unpleasant situation or someone's annoying behaviour without complaining: *The police have to put up with a lot of abuse. | I'm surprised that she's put up with him for all of these years. | There's nothing anyone can do. You'll just have to put up with it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tolerate, live with, stand for**

put upon

1 **feel put upon**

if someone feels put upon, they feel that they are being treated unfairly, especially because they are expected to do more work than the other people: *Kate felt put upon. Why was she always the one who had to stay at home with the kids while William was out enjoying himself. | I'm Ben Jones, youngest son and the most put upon!*

2 **put an interpretation/value upon** *sth*

formal to consider that something has a particular meaning or value: *Dawkins puts a different interpretation upon the word 'selfish' from the usual meaning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put on**

3 **put emphasis/stress upon** *sth*

formal to say that you think that something is particularly important: *Particular stress was put upon the study of dead languages such as Latin and ancient Greek.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put on**

4 **put limitations/constraints etc upon** *sb/sth*

formal to make rules or limits that control someone or something: *the limitations that are put upon us by our genes*

* SIMILAR TO: **put on**

PUTZ

putz around

putz around

AmE informal to waste time doing things that are not useful: *Stop putzing around and come over!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around** *informal*, **muck about/around** *BrE informal*

PUZZLE

puzzled, puzzled, puzzling

puzzle out

puzzle out *sth* **puzzle** *sth* **out**

to try to understand a confusing situation or solve a difficult problem by thinking about it very carefully: *He stared at his old neighbour trying to puzzle out why she looked so different. | Perry lay in bed for some time and tried to puzzle the whole thing out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **solve, work out**

puzzle over

puzzle over *sth*

to try hard to understand something or find the answer to something which seems difficult or confusing: *What should she do? Carrie continued to puzzle over the problem and finally drifted off to sleep. | Doctors have been puzzling over the cause of the disease for many years now, and they are still no closer to finding a solution. | Mark puzzled over the words, but they meant nothing to him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ponder**

P

Q

QUARREL

quarrel, quarrelled, quarrelling BrE
quarrel, quarreled, quarreling AmE

quarrel with

quarrel with *sth*

formal to disagree with an idea or opinion: *Few of us would quarrel with the idea of more choice and more competition.* | *Anders' critics do not quarrel with his statements, but with his definition of 'liquidation.'*

* SIMILAR TO: **disagree with**

QUEUE

queued, queued, queuing also queueing

queue up

1 **queue up**

BrE to form or join a line of people waiting to do something or go somewhere: *On the coldest night I've ever known, the four of us queued up outside our local cinema to see 'Crocodile Dundee'.*

+ **for** *More than 1,000 people queued up for interviews after the Grand Hotel in Scarborough advertised 100 new jobs this week.*

● COMPARE: **line up**

2 **be queuing up to do** *sth*

BrE if people are queuing up to do something, they all want to do it very much: *The school is one of the best in the area, and parents are queuing up to send their children there.* | *Japanese theatre director Ninagawa has a reputation for being very tough, but actors are queuing up to work with him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **line up**

QUICKEN

quickened, quickened, quickening

quicken up

quicken up **quicken up** *sth* **quicken** *sth* **up**

to become quicker, or make something go quicker: *As the runners approached the finish, their pace quickened up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **speed up**

● OPPOSITE: **slow down**

QUIET

quieted, quieted, quieting

quiet down

quiet down **quiet** *sb* **down**

AmE to become calmer and less active or noisy, or to make someone do this: *Quiet down and get ready for bed!* | *Lee bounced the child on his knee to quiet her down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, quieten down** BrE

QUIETEN

quieten, quietened, quietening

quieten down

1 **quieten down** **quieten** *sb* **down**

BrE if someone quietens down, or if you quieten them down, they become quieter and calmer after they were noisy, upset, or too active: *The kids were so noisy – I spent half the lesson trying to quieten them down.* | *Wilkinson began swearing and shouting insults. When a policewoman told him to quieten down, he punched her.* | *He'd once been known as the 'wild boy of rock 'n roll', but old age had quietened him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, quiet down** AmE

2 **quieten down**

if a place or a situation quietens down, it becomes quieter and less busy, because there is less activity in it: *Things tend to quieten down after the Christmas rush is over.* | *The fighting in our immediate area seems to have quietened down*

* SIMILAR TO: **ease off**

QUIT

quit, quit, quitting

quit of

1 **be quit of** *sth*

formal to get rid of something or someone that was causing you problems: *Ethel had become tired of Henry's selfish demands, and now she was determined to be quit of him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be rid of**

2 **quit on** *sb*

AmE to stop helping someone or working with them, when they need you: *So you're going to quit on me? And I thought I could rely on you.* | *Rony acted like a child – he quit on his teammates just when they needed him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let down**

3 **quit on** *sb*

AmE if a machine or vehicle quits on you, it stops working while you are using it or when you need to use it: *Then his computer simply quit on him and he lost his temper.* | *The van was almost out of gas and we were afraid it might quit on us.*

R

RABBIT
rabbited, rabbited, rabbiting

rabbit on

rabbit on

BrE informal to talk continuously for a long time in a boring or annoying way: *I'm not going to stand around here listening to you rabbiting on.*

+ about *I had to listen to Tony rabbiting on for hours about his work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ramble on, witter on** *BrE*

RACK
racked, racked, racking

rack up

rack up *sth* **rack** *sth* **up**

informal to achieve a large total or something: *Yeardley racked up 11 points for the Tigers in the first quarter. | Mexico racked up a $7.4 billion trade surplus during 1995.*

RAFFLE
raffled, raffled, raffling

raffle off

raffle off *sth* **raffle** *sth* **off**

to offer something as a prize in a raffle. A raffle is a type of competition in which people buy tickets with numbers on to try and win prizes: *We're going to raffle off some bottles of wine to raise money for the cancer hospital appeal.*

RAG
ragged, ragged, ragging

rag on

1 **rag on** *sb*

AmE informal to criticize someone or tell them they should do something: *Jody's coach ragged on her for missing the goal. | Quit ragging on me! I'll do it in a minute.*

2 **rag on** *sb*

AmE informal to make jokes about someone and laugh at them in order to embarrass them: *Everybody's ragging on Steve about his new girlfriend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tease**

RAGE
raged, raged, raging

rage against/at

rage against *sth* **rage at** *sth/sb*

to feel extremely angry about something and to express this anger: *Roosevelt believed passionately in equality, and raged against social injustice. | The Dallas Cowboys were left raging at a refereeing decision which could eventually cost them a place in the Super Bowl. | "You never gave a damn about us!" her son raged at her. "You only cared about yourself."*

RAIL
railed, railed, railing

rail against/at

rail against *sth/sb* **rail at** *sth/sb*

literary to complain angrily and very strongly about something that you believe to be very wrong or unfair: *Francis, a veteran AIDS campaigner, railed against the government for not providing enough money for research into the disease. | Every day he stood in the square, railing at all the evils of mankind.*

R

RAILROAD
railroaded, railroaded, railroading

railroad into

railroad *sb* **into** *sth*

to persuade someone to do something without giving them time to think about it: *She hesitated, unwilling to be railroaded into a decision.*

railroad through

railroad through *sth*

railroad *sth* **through**

if a government railroads through a new law, it forces parliament to vote on it very quickly, so that people do not have much time to think about it: *The government is hoping to avoid awkward questions by trying to railroad the bill through. | They are railroading these proposals through parliament, so that by the time people have understood the dangers, it will be too late.*

RAIN
rained, rained, raining

rain down

1 **rain down** **rain down** *sth*

rain *sth* **down**

literary to fall in large quantities, or make something fall in large quantities: *Falling*

debris rained down as firefighters in breathing apparatus fought the flames. | *Archers rained arrows down from the watchtower.*

+ on/upon *I put my arms over my head as pieces of glass started to rain down on me.*

2 **rain down** | **rain down** *sth* | **rain** *sth* **down**

literary if blows rain down on you, or if someone rains blows down on you, they hit you many times from above: *Terry cried out in pain as a flurry of blows rained down on his back.* | *Now the Cuban giant was standing over his opponent, raining down punches.*

be rained off *BrE*
be rained out *AmE*

be rained off/out

if an event is rained off or rained out, it cannot take place or has to stop because there is too much rain: *Last night's match with Leeds United was rained off.* | *We had tickets to the Blue Jays game but it was rained out.*

R

RAKE
raked, raked, raking

rake in

rake in *sth*

spoken to earn a large amount of money, especially without working very hard: *Forbes magazine published a report asserting the nation's top 134 lawyers together raked in some $860 million in one year.*

be raking it in *Everyone assumes that if you're on TV, you must be raking it in.*

rake off

rake off *sth* | **rake** *sth* **off**

especially BrE to get part of the profits of a business or organization dishonestly: *He headed a special fund for the handicapped, and was widely believed to have raked off much of the cash for himself.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skim off**

rake-off N [C]
BrE a share of a profits, which someone has obtained dishonestly: *The taxi-driver gets a rake-off from the hotel.*

rake over

rake over *sth*

if you rake over something unpleasant that happened in the past, you talk or think about it again and again, when it would be better to forget it: *"There's no point in raking over the past," my mother always said, but I wanted to know what had happened.*

rake up

1 **rake up** *sth* | **rake** *sth* **up**

to talk about something unpleasant from the past that people do not want you to mention, because it is upsetting or embarrassing: *I don't want reporters coming here, raking up the past.* | *They don't seem to realise how painful it is for her to have all this raked up again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dwell on/upon**

2 **rake** *sth* **up** | **rake up** *sth*

to collect things together for a particular purpose, when this is difficult to do: *Between them they only managed to rake up $50.*

RALLY
rallied, rallied, rallying

rally around
ALSO rally round *BrE*

rally around/round

rally around/round *sb*

if a group of people rally around, they all work to try to help and support someone who is in a difficult situation: *Her friends all rallied round when her father died.* | *The cabinet rallied around the Prime Minister, defending the action he had taken.*

RAMBLE
rambled, rambled, rambling

ramble on

ramble on

to talk or write for a long time in a rather confused way that is boring for the people who are listening or reading: *She rambled on, but Anastasia was not listening.*

+ about *Sarah glanced at the clock – he had been rambling on about himself for over an hour.*

● COMPARE: **bang on** *BrE informal*

RAMP
ramp, ramped, ramping

ramp up

ramp up *sth* | **ramp** *sth* **up**

BrE to increase something, especially the amount you produce, sell or earn – used in business: *To meet new orders, we need to ramp up production from 18 to 43 planes a month.* | *The company is launching Fire-Walker, a 3-D video game product, to ramp up its entertainment profits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **boost**

ramp-up N [C]
an increase in production, sales, profits etc: *To get a really huge ramp-up in sales they're going to have to get the price down.*

RANGE

ranged, ranged, ranging

be ranged against

be ranged against *sb/sth*

formal if a group of people, organizations, countries etc is ranged against someone or something, it opposes them or is ready to fight against them: *Saddam Hussein threatened to launch terrorist attacks on the countries ranged against him.* | *a powerful group of unions ranged against the government's policy of rail privatization*

RANK

ranked, ranked, ranking

rank among/with

rank among *sth/sb*

be ranked among *sth/sb* NOT IN PROGRESSIVE

to be one of the best of a particular type – used when comparing things or people and placing them in order of quality or importance: *The Lebanon produces some remarkable red wines that rank among the world's finest.* | *It is generally agreed that Dempsey ranks among the greatest champions of all time.*

RAP

rapped, rapped, rapping

rap out

rap out *sth* **rap** *sth* **out**

if you rap out an order or question, you say it quickly, suddenly, and in a way that sound angry: *The ambassador rapped out an order and four servants hurried across the room.* | *"What's your name?" he rapped out suddenly. "O'Brien, sir."*

* SIMILAR TO: **bark out**

RAT

ratted, ratted, ratting

rat on

1 **rat on** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

informal to be disloyal to someone by telling a person in authority about something that they have done wrong: *I never ratted on Albert. I wouldn't rat on a friend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **snitch (on), tell on, split on** *informal*

2 **rat on** *sth*

informal to not do something that you have promised to do for someone: *The Labour government was accused of ratting on its promises to the disabled.*

* SIMILAR TO: **welch on**

RATCHET

ratcheted, ratcheted, ratcheting

ratchet up

ratchet up *sth* **ratchet** *sth* **up**

to keep increasing something by small amounts or to be increased in this way: *NATO has been ratcheting up the pressure on President Milosevic.* | *The payroll tax has ratcheted up to a tax rate of 15.3%.*

ratchet (sth) up a notch (=increase a little) *As the story develops, Hitchcock ratchets the tension up a notch.*

RATION

rationed, rationed, rationed

ration out

ration out *sth* **ration** *sth* **out**

to divide something among a group of people, so that each person gets a small amount: *They were in the lifeboat for days before they were rescued, and food and water had to be carefully rationed out.*

RATTLE

rattled, rattled, rattling

rattle around

rattle around

to be in a building or room that is much bigger than you need it to be, so that you do not feel comfortable

+ in *This house is much too big for us now the children have left – we're just rattling around in it.*

rattle off

rattle off *sth* **rattle** *sth* **off**

to say something quickly without stopping, especially something such as a poem or list that you have learned: *In reply to this casual question, my new companion rattled off a list of all the hotels and restaurants in Georgetown.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reel off**

rattle on

rattle on

informal to talk quickly and for a long time about things that are boring: *I stifled a yawn, but Elsie didn't notice and just rattled on.*

+ about *Boswell rattled on about the prospect of other travels with Johnson, perhaps to Sweden, where he hoped they would see the King.*

rattle through

rattle through *sth*

to speak or do something very quickly because you want to finish as quickly as possible: *She rattled through her speech as if she couldn't wait to leave.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rush (through)**

rattle up

rattle up *sth*

BrE informal to gain a high number of points in a sport or game without much effort: *Simpson did absolutely magnificently. He rattled up no less than 46 league goals, an all-time club record.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chalk up, notch up**

R

RAVE

raved, raved, raving

rave about/over

rave about/over *sb/sth*

to talk in an excited way about how much you admire or like someone or something: *In 1992 the critics were raving about Emma Thompson's performance in the film 'Howards End'.* | *He had thought only sentimentalists and American tourists raved over Venice.*

rave up

rave it up

BrE old-fashioned to enjoy yourself drinking and dancing in a noisy way: *She'll be out raving it up with her mates till all hours.*

rave-up N [C]
BrE a noisy party where people drink and dance a lot: *We're going to have a bit of a rave-up on Saturday, if you'd like to come.*

REACH

reached, reached, reaching

reach down

reach *sth* **down** **reach down** *sth*

BrE to get something that is above your head by putting your arm up, especially in order to give it to someone else

+ for/to *I want that vase down from the top shelf. Could you reach it down for me?*

reach out for

1 **reach out for** *sth*

to try to achieve a better situation, for example peace, love, or happiness: *We were never satisfied – we were always reaching out for new joys and satisfactions.* | *A tiny minority holds all the power, and prevents the people from reaching out for peace.*

2 **reach out for help/assistance etc**

to ask someone for help: *Many of these women need protection, and we urge them to reach out for help.*

reach out to

1 **reach out to** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to offer help, comfort, or support to someone: *If you want peace, reach out to the poor. That is the Pope's message for World Day of Peace.* | *"We must reach out to the 40 percent of children who don't have any preventive healthcare." Brazelton said.*

outreach N [U]
outreach services try to find people who need help, and offer it to them, instead of waiting for people to come and ask for it: *an outreach health programme for drug addicts*

2 **reach out to** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to try and communicate your ideas to people that you have not succeeded in communicating with in the past: *How do the Republicans plan to reach out to black voters?* | *I want to reach out to everybody. For too long poetry's been written by poets for poets.* | *Corporations are going global, reaching out to new markets.*

3 **reach out to** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to ask for help, comfort, or support: *She reached out to him as a last source of help.*

REACT

reacted, reacted, reacting

react against

react against *sth*

to show that you dislike or disagree with someone's rules or way of doing something by deliberately doing the opposite: *It's normal for teenagers to react against their parents' beliefs.* | *Feminists were reacting against traditional ideas of a woman's role in society.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rebel (against)**

READ

read, read, reading

read back

read *sth* **back** **read back** *sth*

BrE to read something that you have written, to check that it is correct and satisfactory: *When I read back what I had written, I was quite pleased with it.*

+ to *Mr Croxley would dictate a letter to Dinah and then get her to read it back to him.*

read for

read for *sth*

BrE old-fashioned to study a subject in order to get a university degree: *She's reading for a degree in physics.*

read into

read *sth* **into** *sth*

to think that something has a meaning or importance that it may not really have: *Robert wondered if she was reading more into his comments than he actually meant.*

read too much into sth *Only 15% of the population voted in last week's election, so don't read too much into the result.*

read off

read off *sth* | **read** *sth* **off**

to read the number on a machine or piece of equipment used for measuring things: *To measure gas pressure, switch on the machine and read off the number from the LED display.*

read out

1 **read** *sth* **out** | **read out** *sth*

to read something and say the words, especially the words or numbers that are written in a list, message etc, so that other people can hear them: *He opened the envelope and read out the name of the winner.*

+ to *Sarah left a message – I'll read it out to you.*

read sth out loud *I read the letter out loud to my wife.*

2 **read out** *sth* | **read** *sth* **out**

if a computer or an electronic instrument reads out information, it shows it to you: *This program will read out the contents of the file.*

read-out N [C]
printed information produced by a computer or machine, or a measurement shown by a computer or machine: *The sensor provides a constant digital read-out of the levels of carbon monoxide in the air.*

read over

read over *sth* | **read** *sth* **over**

to read something carefully in order to check details or find mistakes: *Read the contract over carefully before you sign it.* | *It's often a good idea to get someone else to read over your essay before you hand it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **read through**

read through

read through *sth* | **read** *sth* **through**

to read something from beginning to end, especially in order to check details or find mistakes: *Martin picked up the faxed newspaper clipping and read it through. "This is a really bizarre story," he said to Karen.* | *Always read through what you have written before you leave the exam room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **read over**

read-through N [C]
when someone reads something from beginning to end: *"Finished your essay?" "Yeah, I just need to give it a quick read-through, then I'll hand it in."*

read up

read up *sth* | **read** *sth* **up**

read up on/about *sth*

to read about a particular subject, because you want to know more about it: *I'll have to read up on the tax laws before that meeting tomorrow.* | *If you're planning to take up bee-keeping, read up about it first.* | *Charles spent his first day at the office reading up all the facts and figures.*

R

REAR

reared, reared, rearing

rear up

rear up

if a horse or similar animal rears up, it suddenly rises up on its back legs: *Ralph's horse suddenly reared up, throwing him off.*

REASON

reasoned, reasoned, reasoning

reason out

reason *sth* **out** | **reason out** *sth*

to think about something carefully, in order to decide how to solve a problem, or in order to understand something better: *Instead of arguing, let's try to reason it out.* | *Something FitzAlan had said made her feel uneasy about his true motives, but she was growing too sleepy to reason it out now.*

reason with

reason with *sb*

to talk calmly to someone who you think is behaving in an unreasonable way, and give them reasons why they should be more sensible: *Try to reason with your child and find out why he disobeyed you, rather than just shouting at him.* | *I tried to reason with her, but she locked herself in the bathroom, crying.*

REBOUND

rebounded, rebounded, rebounding

rebound on/upon

● **Rebound upon** is more formal than **rebound on** and is used mostly in writing.

rebound on/upon *sb* NOT PASSIVE

if an action rebounds on someone, it has a harmful effect on them even though it was only intended to affect someone else: *These new government restrictions on the food industry are likely to rebound on the farmers, who are already struggling to survive.* | *When church leaders tried to punish such disobedience, their efforts frequently rebounded on themselves.*

RECKON

reckoned, reckoned, reckoning

R

reckon on

reckon on *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to expect something to happen and include it in your plans: *We hadn't reckoned on this sudden rise in house prices.*

reckon on doing sth *You can reckon on paying several thousand pounds for a good photocopier.*

reckon on sb doing sth *They didn't reckon on anyone objecting to their scheme.*

* SIMILAR TO: **expect, figure on** *AmE*

reckon up

reckon up *sth* **reckon** *sth* **up**

BrE old-fashioned to add up several amounts in order to get a total: *£17.60 plus tax is £20.68, if I've reckoned it up correctly.* | *Pat nodded her head, reckoning up the cost of everything in her mind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up**

reckon with

1 **reckon with** *sth* USUALLY NEGATIVE

to realize that you must be prepared to deal with a particular problem or danger: *In September 1812 the victorious army entered Moscow, but the Russian winter was something that Napoleon had not reckoned with.* | *Clinton had to reckon with the fact that Congress was likely to oppose him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bargain for**

2 **sb/sth to be reckoned with**

someone or something that is very powerful, successful etc and must be respected or seriously considered as a possible competitor, opponent, or danger: *I think we showed the country that the Dallas Cowboys are a football team to be reckoned with.* | *The new principal was certainly a woman to be reckoned with.*

a force to be reckoned with *In Asia, China has established itself as a force to be reckoned with alongside America.*

reckon without

reckon without *sth/sb*

BrE to make plans without realizing that a particular thing or person may cause you problems, so that you are not prepared for them when you have to deal with them

sb had reckoned without sth/sb *Watson had decided to swim to the island, but had reckoned without the strong currents, and narrowly escaped drowning.* | *Several of the soldiers thought they would find comfort in the arms of the nurses. But they had reckoned without Sister Murphy.*

RECONCILE

reconciled, reconciled, reconciling

reconcile to

reconcile yourself to *sth*

to accept something, especially a situation that you do not like or approve of, and realize that there is nothing you can do to change it: *Over the years she had reconciled herself to the fact that she would probably never remarry.*

be/become reconciled to sth *The islanders had never become reconciled to British rule.*

* SIMILAR TO: **accept**

REDUCE

reduced, reduced, reducing

reduce to

1 **reduce** *sb* **to tears/despair/silence etc**

to make someone feel very upset, afraid, or quiet: *The sight of those poor children reduced me to tears.*

reduce sb to a nervous wreck *BrE Just the thought of going to the dentist reduces him to a nervous wreck!*

2 **reduce** *sb/sth* **to** *sth*

to cause someone or something to be in a very bad situation or a very low and unimportant position: *A disastrous business venture had reduced him to near ruin.* | *The movie tells the tragic story of a once-famous musician reduced to poverty.* | *Too much emphasis has been placed on exams and tests, and education has been reduced to an exercise in learning facts.*

3 **be reduced to (doing)** *sth*

if someone is reduced to doing something unpleasant, boring, or embarrassing, they have to do it because they are in a difficult

situation and have no choice: *She lost her job as manager and was reduced to doing barwork.* | *Local villagers have been reduced to eating nuts and worms as a result of crop failures.*

* SIMILAR TO: **to have to resort to**

4 **reduce** *sth* **to** *sth*

to damage or destroy something so that there is almost nothing left: *The fire spread rapidly, reducing the factory to a pile of twisted metal.*

reduce sth to ashes/rubble/dust/ruins *Much of the city centre was reduced to rubble by wartime bombing.*

5 **reduce** *sth* **to** *sth*

to make something shorter and simpler: *Their whole business philosophy can be reduced to a simple slogan – make it fast and sell it cheap.* | *The artist has reduced the face to four blobs – two for the eyes, and one each for the nose and mouth.*

REEK

reeked, reeked, reeking

reek of

1 **reek of** *sth*

to smell strongly of something very unpleasant: *The bathroom was filthy and reeked of tobacco smoke.* | *He goes to the pub and comes home with his breath reeking of beer.*

2 **reek of** *sth*

to seem to have a lot of a particular unpleasant quality – used to show disapproval: *Campaigners condemned the government report, claiming it reeked of hypocrisy.* | *It's a private school for the sons of rich businessmen – the place reeks of wealth, privilege and power.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smell of, stink (of)**

REEL

reeled, reeled, reeling

reel back

reel back USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to step backwards suddenly and almost fall over, especially because you are shocked, frightened, or because someone has hit you: *The blow sent the man reeling back against the counter.* | *"I beg your pardon?" said Mrs Cramp, reeling back as if she had been slapped in the face.*

reel in

1 **reel in** *sth* **reel** *sth* **in**

if you reel in a fish, fishing line, rope etc, you pull it towards you by winding the line around the reel (=the round object that holds the line) *Luke felt a tug on the line and reeled in a beautiful salmon.* | *Eventually the fire was put out and the firemen began reeling in their hoses.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

2 **reel in** *sth/sb* **reel** *sth/sb* **in**

to get or attract a large number of people or things: *The programme reels in more than 13 million viewers a show.* | *Salesmen continued reeling in clients for the Miami-based firm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

reel off

reel off *sth* **reel** *sth* **off**

to say something quickly and easily, especially a list of names, numbers, or events: *The waitress reeled off a list of dishes in rapid Italian – I couldn't understand a word!* | *When politicians start reeling off figures about increased government spending, the audience just gets bored.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rattle off**

R

REFER

referred, referred, referring

refer to

1 **refer to** *sb/sth*

to mention or speak about someone or something: *What was the organization that you referred to at the beginning of the lecture?* | *Although she didn't mention any names, everyone knew who she was referring to.*

refer to sb/sth as sth (=call them by a particular name) *He just referred to her as 'my friend Sarah' – I don't know whether they're together or not.* | *The computer screen is referred to as the monitor.*

2 **refer to** *sth*

to read or look at a book, note, map etc in order to get information: *You can refer to the course textbook if you need further information on this subject.* | *Without referring to my notes, I can't remember exactly what she said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consult**

3 **refer to** *sth/sb*

if part of a book, article, document etc refers to something or someone, it describes or is about that person or thing: *The blue line on the graph refers to sales.* | *The table on page three refers to rainfall in the region.*

4 **refer** *sb/sth* **to** *sb*

to send a person or problem to someone with special knowledge or experience to get information, advice, or a decision: *Your family doctor will refer you to a specialist at the eye hospital.* | *Shop assistants are instructed to*

refer customers to senior staff if they have a complaint. | *The case has been referred to a higher court.*

5 **refer** *sb* **to** *sth*

formal to suggest that someone looks at a book, article, report etc for a particular piece of information: *I refer you to my letter of March 18, 1998 with respect to your application for a grant.* | *We asked him where it came from in the Bible and he referred us to Exodus, Chapter 14.*

REFLECT

reflected, reflected, reflecting

reflect on/upon

● **Reflect upon** is more formal than **reflect on** and is mostly used in writing.

R

1 **reflect on/upon** *sth*

to think carefully about something, especially something that has happened or something you have decided to do: *New Year's Day is a time to reflect on the past year and plan ahead.* | *Reflecting on what he had said, she found herself close to tears.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think (about), consider**

2 **reflect on/upon** *sb/sth*

to influence other people's opinion about someone or something, especially in a bad way: *Anna felt ashamed, realizing that her father's rudeness reflected on her.*

reflect badly on sb/sth *Newspaper reports of poor exam results would undoubtedly reflect badly on the school.*

REFRAIN

refrained, refrained, refraining

refrain from

refrain from *sth*

formal to not do something, although you would like to do it: *Doctors advised that him to refrain from all sports for at least three months.*

refrain from doing sth *Please refrain from smoking in the restaurant.*

REGALE

regaled, regaled, regaling

regale with

regale *sb* **with** *sth*

formal to tell someone stories about things that have happened in order to entertain them, especially when these stories last a long time: *In the bar she met someone called Patrick who began regaling her with tales of old Ireland.* | *Mr Orme finished off the evening by regaling us with some reminiscences of his early days in Parliament.*

REIN

reined, reined, reining

rein in
ALSO **rein back** *BrE*

1 **rein in/back** *sth* **rein** *sth* **in/back**

to reduce something or stop it increasing, especially the amount of money spent by a government or company: *the failure of the government to rein in public spending* | *Russia struggled to rein in mounting inflation.* | *If the company reins back its expenditure on research and development, jobs will have to go.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

2 **rein in/back** *sb* **rein** *sb* **in/back**

if someone in authority reins in the people they control, they stop those people behaving in an extreme or unacceptable way: *After the attempted coup, the government realized it would have to reign in the military.* | *Trade unions started improving their image and reining in the activities of unruly members.*

3 **rein in/back** *sth* **rein** *sth* **in/back**

to control your emotions and stop yourself from behaving in an extreme or unacceptable way: *Eventually, he learned to rein in his emotional outbursts.*

4 **rein in/back** *sth* **rein** *sth* **in/back**

to make a horse go more slowly or stop by pulling the reins towards you. The reins are the long thin pieces of leather that you hold to control the horse: *At the top of the hill, she reined in her horse to admire the view.*

REJOICE

rejoiced, rejoiced, rejoicing

rejoice in

1 **rejoice in** *sth*

formal or literary to be very pleased about something, or to enjoy something: *The hostages were busy rejoicing in their new-found freedom.* | *a spiteful man who rejoices in the humiliation of others*

* SIMILAR TO: **enjoy**

2 **rejoice in the name of** *sth*

BrE to have a name that seems silly or amusing – used humorously: *Their dog, which is short, fat and hairy, rejoices in the name of Bilbo Baggins.*

RELAPSE

relapsed, relapsed, relapsing

relapse into

relapse into *sth*

BrE to start to be in a particular state or mood again, or to start to behave in the same way again – used especially to say that someone becomes silent or in a bad mood again

relapse into silence *After asking her name and where she lived, he relapsed into an uneasy silence.*

relapse into gloom/pessimism *Jason smiled briefly at the memory, but soon relapsed into gloom.*

RELATE

related, related, relating

relate to

1 **relate to** *sth/sb* **/be related to** *sth/sb*

to be about a particular subject or person, or be connected with them in some way: *The document explains the policy relating to discipline in the school. | You can get temporary work visas for jobs related to computer technology. | I still can't understand how all this relates to me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pertain to** *formal*

2 **relate to** *sth*

if you can relate to someone's situation or someone's feelings, you can understand them because you have been in a similar situation yourself: *She said she felt so angry when he died – I can relate to that. | My biggest problem with the film was that I couldn't relate to any of the characters.*

* SIMILAR TO: **empathize (with)**

3 **relate to** *sb*

to be able to have a good relationship with someone because you understand their feelings and behaviour: *Surely you have to be able to relate to young people to be a successful child care worker?*

RELIEVE

relieved, relieved, relieving

relieve of

1 **relieve** *sb* **of** *sth*

formal to help someone by taking a problem, responsibility etc, away from them: *The doctors will do what they can to relieve him of pain. | They have established a fund to pay her expenses, thereby relieving her of all the financial worries. | The judge's decision relieved the company of any obligation to pay Maria the money.*

2 **relieve** *sb* **of** *sth*

formal to take away from someone something that they are holding or carrying: *Carl jumped up to relieve Paula of her shopping bag. | The captain said to Field, "I'll have to relieve you of your weapon."*

3 **relieve** *sb* **of their post/duties/command etc**

formal to officially take away someone's job from them, especially because they have done something wrong: *Pravda revealed that the first secretary, Anatoly Gerasimov, had been relieved of his post. | The board has decided to relieve you of your duties as head teacher with immediate effect.*

4 **relieve** *sb* **of** *sth*

literary to steal something from someone – used humorously: *Be careful – this part of town is full of crooks who'll be happy to relieve you of your wallet!*

* SIMILAR TO: **steal**

R

RELY

relied, relied, relying

rely on/upon

● **Rely upon** is more formal than **rely on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **rely on/upon** *sth/sb*

to need or use something or someone in order to exist or do something successfully: *The charity relies on public donations in order to continue with its work.*

+ for *countries which have to rely on the West for aid | Early sailors had to rely on the stars for navigation at night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon**

2 **rely on/upon** *sb/sth*

to trust someone or something to do what you expect or what you have asked them to do

can rely on sb *"You will get the job finished by Friday, won't you?" "You can rely on me." | She thinks she's finally found someone who she can rely on.*

rely on/upon sb/sth to do sth *The alarm clock isn't working properly, so don't rely on it to wake you up.*

rely on sth/sb doing sth *You can't rely on the bank lending you the money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon, count on**

REMEMBER

remembered, remembered, remembering

remember to

remember me to *sb*

used to ask someone to say hello for you to another person who they are going to meet soon: *I haven't seen your family for months; please remember me to your mother.* | *As Wyatt left, Carl said, "Remember me to Susan."*

REMIND

reminded, reminded, reminding

remind of

1 **remind** *sb* **of** *sth/sb* NOT PROGRESSIVE

if someone or something reminds you of another person or thing, you think that the first one seems similar to the second: *Corrine reminds me of myself when I was that age.* | *Her voice reminds me a lot of Joni Mitchell.*

2 **remind** *sb* **of** *sth/sb*

if something reminds you of a person, place, or experience in your past, it makes you remember them: *The smell of boiled cabbage always reminds me of school.* | *The song reminded her of her youth.* | *It reminds me of an occasion some years ago, when I was just starting out in the theatre.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring back memories of sth**

REMIT

remitted, remitted, remitting

remit to

remit *sth* **to** *sb/sth*

formal to send something back to another person, court etc so that they can consider it again and make a decision: *The case will be remitted to the Court of Appeal.*

RENDER

rendered, rendered, rendering

render down

render down *sth* | **render** *sth* **down**

BrE to heat fat until it is liquid in order to make it pure or to remove it from meat: *The fat can be rendered down and used for cooking.* | *The use of animal feed made from the rendered down remains of sheep has been banned since 1988.*

render into

render *sth* **into English/Greek etc**

formal to translate a piece of language into English, Greek etc: *The Aramaic word for zealot was 'quannai', which was rendered into Greek as 'kananaios'.*

* SIMILAR TO: **translate into**

render up

render up *sth* | **render** *sth* **up**

literary or formal to give something to someone, especially when you are forced to: *There were severe penalties for anyone who failed to render up their annual payment of gold.* | *a story about a man who renders up his soul to the devil in return for money*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up, surrender**

RENEGE

reneged, reneged, reneging

renege on

renege on *sth*

formal to not do something that you have promised or agreed to do: *Union leaders have accused the company of reneging on its part of the deal.* | *There are fears that the West may be about to renege on its commitment to cancel debts to developing countries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go back on**

RENT

rented, rented, renting

rent out

rent out *sth* | **rent** *sth* **out**

to allow someone to use a room, building, or area of land in return for regular payment: *He sold the business, rented out his house, and set off on a trip around the world.*

+ to *There's a separate apartment upstairs, which they rent out to students.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let out, hire out** *BrE*

REPAIR

repaired, repaired, repairing

repair to

repair to *sth*

old-fashioned or literary to go to a place, especially a different room, in order to relax: *Shall we repair to the smoking room, gentlemen?* | *In the evening, artists and writers would repair to cafes and restaurants in the city's Latin quarter.*

REPORT

reported, reported, reporting

report back

report back | **report back on** *sth*

to give someone information about something that they asked you to find out about: *The team coach agreed to get the players' reaction and report back at the next directors' meeting.*

+ to *The manager has been asked to report back to the board with his observations about how the company can get out of its current financial situation.*

+ on *The commission will report back on its findings some time later this year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **feed back**

report to

report to *sb*

if you report to someone at work, they are your manager and are in charge of you: *"Who do you report to?" "Paula Davies. She's head of the sales department." | You will report to the Chief Engineer; if you have any questions or problems, talk to him.*

REPOSE

reposed, reposed, reposing

repose in

repose *sth* **in** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

old-fashioned formal if trust or confidence is reposed in someone, other people trust or expect them to do something: *The trust reposed in our police force has been abused.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **place (in)**

RESIDE

resided, resided, residing

reside in

reside in *sth/sb* NOT PROGRESSIVE

formal to exist in something or be caused by something: *Much of the book's value resides in its comprehensive selection of illustrations.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rest in**

reside with/in

reside with/in *sb*

formal if power or responsibility resides with or in someone, they have that power or responsibility: *Real political power resided with the army. | Sovereignty resides in parliament. | Ultimate control resides with the company's shareholders.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rest with, lie with**

RESIGN

resigned, resigned, resigning

resign to

resign yourself to *sth* **/be resigned to** *sth*

to realize that you must accept a difficult or unpleasant situation calmly because you can not prevent it or avoid it: *I'd resigned myself to the fact that my career was over. | One report suggested that farmers were resigned to cuts in federal support.*

resign yourself to doing sth/be resigned to doing sth *She says she's now resigned to living on her own.*

RESOLVE

resolved, resolved, resolving

resolve into

1 **resolve into** *sth* | **resolve** *sth* **into** *sth*

formal to separate into different parts, or to make something do this: *When heated, the mixture will resolve into two separate compounds. | One might explain the theory by resolving it into simpler elements.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **separate (into)**

2 **resolve (itself) into** *sth*

formal or literary, especially BrE to slowly change and become something different – use this especially about something that you see or hear: *The sound came nearer, resolving into a kind of low whispering. | Suddenly, the shore was very close; the grey smudge had resolved itself into green fields, a sandy beach, and little houses.*

RESONATE

resonated, resonated, resonating

resonate with

1 **resonate with** *sth* ✗

formal to be full of a particular quality: *This dish has its origins in Thailand and absolutely resonates with sharp, sweet, and spicy flavours. | poetry that resonates with biblical imagery*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

2 **resonate with** *sb* ✗

if an idea or plan resonates with a particular group of people, they approve of it and strongly support it: *Clinton's emphasis on jobs and the economy clearly resonated with California voters.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **meet with sb's approval**

R

RESORT

resorted, resorted, resorting

resort to

resort to *sth*

to use a particular method in order to try to achieve something, when you do not want to use it but feel you have to do so because other methods have failed: *Officials fear the extremists may resort to violence if the negotiations fail. | The US government says it is willing to resort to force if necessary in order to secure the release of the hostages.*

resort to doing sth *A spokeswoman says that the party will have to resort to suing the newspaper if they refuse to print an apology.*

RESOUND

R

resounded, resounded, resounding

resound with/to

resound with/to *sth*

literary if a place resounds with a sound, it is full of it: *On summer evenings, the canyon resounds with the cries of frogs and birds. | A few minutes later, the forest resounded to the echo of a piercing scream.*

REST

rested, rested, resting

rest on/upon

● **Rest upon** is more formal than **rest on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **rest on/upon** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

formal to depend on something in order to succeed: *Success in business ultimately rests on good judgment and luck. | The future of the European Community rests on political rather than economic considerations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon**

2 **rest on/upon** *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

formal to be based on a particular idea or set of facts: *The case against my client rests entirely on circumstantial evidence. | The proposal rests on a simple notion: replace all current taxes with a single charge levied on everyone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be based on/upon**

3 **sb's eyes rest on/upon** *sth*

if your eyes rest on something, you look at it for a period of time after looking around at other things: *She gazed at the peaceful scene until her eyes rested on the old boat lying on the shore. | He stopped abruptly, his eyes narrowing as they rested on her tense face.*

rest up

rest up

to relax and not do anything for a period of time in order to rest before you do something: *Although the injury wasn't serious, she's been advised by her doctor to rest up for a week. | We'll rest up here for the night and drive down in the morning.*

rest upon

SEE **rest on**

rest with

rest with *sb* NOT PROGRESSIVE

if a decision or duty rests with someone, they are responsible for it: *The final decision about the case rests with the court. | The primary responsibility for the child's education should rest with the family.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lie with, reside with** *formal*

RESULT

resulted, resulted, resulting

result in

result in *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if something results in a situation or event, it causes the situation or event to happen: *The factory will close at the end of the month, resulting in 5000 job losses. | a tragic accident that resulted in the death of three children*

* SIMILAR TO: **cause, lead to**

RETURN

returned, returned, returning

return to

1 **return to** *sth*

to start doing an activity, job etc again, after you have stopped doing it for a period of time: *Ian finally gave up trying to entertain the children and returned to his newspaper. | It was several weeks before Eve was able to return to work after her operation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go back to**

2 **return to** *sth*

spoken if you return to a subject that you have already spoken or written about, you talk about it again, especially in more detail: *Let's return to the subject of your previous employment. | I shall return to this issue later in the lecture.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come back to**

REV

revved, revved, revving

rev up

1 **rev up** | **rev up** *sth* | **rev** *sth* **up**

if an engine revs up or you rev it up, you make it work a lot faster by pressing the control down hard, especially when the vehicle is not moving: *The police car revved up and raced off into the night.* | *I could hear the aircraft revving up at the end of the runway, preparing to depart for its evening flight.* | *young lads sit revving up their engines at traffic lights*

2 **rev up** *sth* | **rev** *sth* **up**

AmE informal to improve something, for example by giving it more energy or making it more exciting: *McEnroe revved up his game and came back to win 6–7.*

revved-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
AmE made better, more interesting, exciting etc: *Kodak's new revved-up camera also records information, such as dates and titles, on the film.*

REVEL

revelled, revelled, revelling BrE
reveled, reveled, reveling AmE

revel in

revel in *sth*

to enjoy something very much, especially praise, popularity, or something that people do not expect you to enjoy: *After the race Christie ran around the track, revelling in the applause from his fans.* | *The singer seems to be reveling in his new-found fame.* | *While the other pros are complaining about the length of the course, Woods seems to be positively reveling in it.*

REVENGE

revenged, revenged, revenging

revenge yourself on/ be revenged on

revenge yourself on *sb*

be revenged on *sb*

formal to punish a person who has harmed or upset you or someone you love: *Ellis decided to revenge herself on him by shooting him in a pub in South London.* | *He swore to be revenged on those who had killed his brother.*

REVERT

reverted, reverted, reverting

revert to

1 **revert to** *sth*

to start doing or using something again: *After the divorce, she reverted to using her own family name.* | *"Of course," he added, reverting to his normal voice, "as you are such a close friend of dear Iris ..."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go back to**

2 **revert to** *sth*

to change back to a previous state or condition: *The land soon reverted to its natural state.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go back to**

3 **revert to** *sb*

formal if land or a building reverts to someone, it becomes their property again after belonging to someone else: *After his death, control of the estate reverted to the Duke of Norfolk.* | *Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.*

4 **revert to** *sth*

formal, especially BrE to talk again about something that was mentioned earlier: *Theodora reverted to the subject of money at the earliest possible opportunity.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return to**

REVOLVE

revolved, revolved, revolving

revolve around ALSO revolve round *BrE*

1 **revolve around/round** *sth/sb*

if a story, discussion, or idea revolves around something or someone, the story, discussion etc is mainly about that thing or person: *The story revolves around Poole's relationship with a married woman.* | *a conversation that revolved around the latest political scandal* | *Religion in ancient Egypt revolved around notions of life after death.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **centre around**

2 **revolve around/round** *sth*

if something revolves around a particular thing, that thing is more important than anything else: *Charlie Haden's entire life has revolved around music.* | *At Fontwell in the summer everything revolved around tennis and garden parties.*

3 **think the world revolves around you**

to think that you are more important than anyone or anything else: *Her parents gave her everything she asked for and as a result she thought the world revolved around her.*

R

RID

ridded or *rid, rid, ridding*

rid of

1 **rid** *sth/sb* **of** *sth/sb*

to remove someone or something that is bad or harmful from a place, organization etc: *The mayor offered a reward to anyone who could rid the town of rats.* | *a huge vaccination program that finally succeeded in ridding the world of smallpox*

2 **rid yourself of** *sth*

to succeed in stopping yourself from having a feeling, thought, or problem that has been causing you trouble: *Even at home, far from the dangers of the war, Prior could never quite rid himself of all his fears.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of sth**

R

3 **be rid of** *sth/sb*

to no longer have something or someone, that was causing you problems: *Government officials in London would like to be rid of Irish problems.* | *When the troublesome Mr Galt resigned, the school was glad to be rid of him.*

be well rid of sth/sb *BrE* (=be lucky to be rid of something or someone) *She was lazy and incompetent – we're well rid of her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be/get shot of** *informal*

RIDDLE

riddled, riddled, riddling

be riddled with

1 **be riddled with** *sth*

to be full of something bad, unpleasant, or harmful: *He died eight months later, riddled with cancer.* | *There were allegations that the police force was riddled with racism and corruption.*

2 **be riddled with holes/tunnels etc**

if something is riddled with holes, a lot of holes have been made in it: *The leaves were riddled with holes where snails had been feeding on them.* | *a cliff face riddled with tunnels and mine shafts*

3 **be riddled with bullets/gunfire etc**

to be hit by a lot of bullets: *The president's car was riddled with bullets as the gunmen opened fire.* | *After the attack, the door and walls were riddled with bullet holes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pepper with**

RIDE

rode, ridden, riding

ride down

ride *sb* **down** | **ride down** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to knock someone down by riding a horse over them: *The fugitives were ridden down and trampled as they fled before the Tsar's cavalry.*

ride on

1 **ride on** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something important, such as money or success, rides on the result of something else, it depends on it: *It's really stressful when you know that your whole future may be riding on this one exam.* | *Boxing has become big business with a huge amount of money riding on the outcome of each fight.*

2 **ride on**

to continue riding somewhere: *After a brief stop to admire the view, they rode on down the hill.*

ride out

1 **ride out** *sth* | **ride** *sth* **out** NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in getting to the end of a difficult situation without being badly harmed by it, so that you can then continue as before: *The Government is determined to ride out the present crisis.*

ride out the storm *I don't think Clinton will be forced to resign – my guess is he'll ride out the storm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **weather the storm**

2 **ride out a storm/ hurricane/rough seas**

if a ship rides out a storm etc, it succeeds in keeping floating until the storm has ended: *The Greek fleet had anchored in the shelter of a bay to ride out the storm.*

ride up

ride up

if a piece of clothing, especially a skirt, rides up, it gradually moves upwards so that it is not covering your body properly, for example because it is too tight: *She reached forward to pull down her skirt, which had ridden up over her thighs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skooch up** *AmE spoken informal*

RIFLE

rifled, rifled, rifling

rifle through

rifle through *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to search quickly through a cupboard, drawer, papers etc, in order to find something that you want: *She rifled through her wardrobe looking for a suitable dress.* | *Damien was sitting at my mother's desk rifling through her correspondence.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go through**

RIG

rigged, rigged, rigging

rig out

rig *sb* **out** **rig out** *sb*

old-fashioned informal to dress someone in special or unusual clothes: *They'd rigged young Billy out in a blue sailor suit.* | *Everyone had to come to the party rigged out as a television character.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress sb up**

rig-out N [C]
BrE old-fashioned a set of clothes, especially unusual or special clothes: *You can't go walking around town in that rig-out.*

rig up

rig up *sth* **rig** *sth* **up**

informal to quickly make a temporary piece of equipment from objects that you find around you, or to quickly fix something in a position where it can be used temporarily: *One of the boys had rigged up a sort of tent by draping a large plastic sheet over a pole.* | *I managed to rig up a television in the bedroom so that he could watch the baseball game*

RING

rang, rung, ringing

ring around

SEE **ring round**

ring back

ring back **ring** *sb* **back** NOT PASSIVE

BrE especially spoken to telephone someone for a second time, or to telephone someone who phoned you when you were not available: *Can I give Jane a message, or will you ring back later?* | *Mr. Harrison's busy right now, but I'll ask him to ring you back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call back, return sb's call**

ring in

1 **ring in**

BrE to telephone the place where you work or where you are expected, for example to say why you are not there: *Joan rang in to say she was sick* | *If patients can't get to the clinic on time, I wish they'd ring in and tell us.*

2 **ring in the New Year**

to celebrate the beginning of the new year by ringing church bells: *Churches all over the land will be ringing in the New Year.*

ring off

ring off

BrE to end a telephone call and put down the part of the telephone that you speak into: *Don't ring off. I've something else to tell you.* | *I have to ring off now – there's someone at the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang up**

ring out

1 **ring out**

if the sound of a bell, a voice, gunshot etc rings out, you can hear it loudly and clearly: *Shots rang out and at least 20 demonstrators fell to the ground.* | *chuch bells ringing out over the sunlit streets*

2 **ring out the old year**

to celebrate the end of the year by ringing the church bells: *I heard the bells of St Peter's ringing out the old year.*

ring round/around

ring round/around

ring round/around *sth/sb*

BrE to telephone several people or places in order to arrange something or find out information: *I'm just ringing round to remind everybody about the meeting next Friday.* | *I rang around all the hotels in town, but they were all full.*

* SIMILAR TO: **phone around, call around** *AmE*

ring up

1 **ring** *sb* **up** **ring up** *sb* **ring up**

BrE to telephone someone: *He rang me up that same evening and asked me out for a drink.* | *I rang up the ticket office, but I just got a recorded message.* | *Someone rang up while you were out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **phone, call**

2 **ring up** *sth*

if a company rings up a profit, it makes that profit: *Tesco is expected to ring up another 28% rise in profits.*

R

3 **ring up** *sth* | **ring** *sth* **up**

if a person working in a shop rings up an amount of money, they record the amount the customer has spent by pressing the buttons of the cash register (= a machine used for storing and recording amounts of money in a shop) *I was astonished at what the bill came to when it was rung up on the till.*

4 **ring up** *sth*

AmE to spend a large amount of money: *He rang up a bill of about $1000 at the gift shop before catching his flight home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run up**

RINSE

rinsed, rinsed, rinsing

rinse out

R

1 **rinse** *sth* **out** | **rinse out** *sth*

to wash a piece of clothing or cloth quickly in clean water, usually in order to remove the soap that you have already used: *Soak the garment in warm soapy water until the stains have disappeared, and then rinse it out under the tap.*

2 **rinse** *sth* **out** | **rinse out** *sth*

to quickly wash the inside of something, for example a cup, a container, or your mouth, usually using only water: *Would you rinse out a couple of mugs while I make the coffee.* | *Karen rinsed out her mouth and spat into the sink.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wash out**

RIP

ripped, ripped, ripping

rip into

1 **rip into** *sth*

if a storm, an explosion, or bullets rip into something, they hit it violently and cause a lot of damage: *Over 200 people were injured when tornadoes ripped into the Southern United States.* | *The jet exploded, and a gigantic fireball ripped into a crowded residential area.*

2 **rip into** *sb*

informal to talk to someone angrily and criticize them very strongly for doing something: *What's wrong with old Moreton? He ripped into me just now for being two minutes late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay into, chew out** *AmE*

rip off

1 **rip** *sb* **off** | **rip off** *sb*

informal to cheat someone by making them pay much more than the usual price for something: *A lot of the taxi drivers here will try and rip you off if they think you're a tourist.* | *With tickets costing over £100 each, audiences feel they're being ripped off*

* SIMILAR TO: **fleece**

rip-off N [SINGULAR]
informal if something is a rip-off, it is much too expensive, and you think someone is trying to cheat you: *£2.50 for a cup of coffee! It's a rip-off, that's what it is.*

2 **rip off** *sth* | **rip** *sth* **off**

to quickly remove a piece of clothing by pulling it off in a careless or violent way: *Ripping off his tie and jacket, he dived into the river.* | *In the ensuing struggle they overpowered the gunman and ripped off his mask.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tear off**

3 **rip off** *sth* | **rip** *sth* **off**

informal to steal someone else's idea by copying something that they have made or invented, especially in order to sell it: *Foley shamelessly admitted ripping off other people's designs.* | *Are they aware that their songs are being ripped off and copied by bands in other countries?*

4 **rip off** *sth* | **rip** *sth* **off**

informal to steal other people's money or possessions: *He was caught ripping off money from church funds.* | *a part of town where it's easy to rip off cars*

* SIMILAR TO: **steal, nick** *BrE informal*

rip through

rip through *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if a storm, an explosion, or bullets rip through something, they go through it very quickly and violently causing a lot of damage: *A hail of bullets ripped through the side of the general's car.* | *the explosion of three massive bombs which ripped through the heart of the city*

rip up

1 **rip up** *sth* | **rip** *sth* **up**

to tear something quickly and violently into small pieces, especially something made of paper or cloth: *She ripped up Tom's photograph and threw it on the fire.* | *Demonstrators ripped up the US flag, shouting "Death to America."*

* SIMILAR TO: **tear up**

2 **rip up** *sth*

to pull up something that is fixed to the floor or the ground in order to remove it or destroy it: *As soon as I moved into the studio, I ripped up the brown carpet and painted the walls white.* | *Vandals had chopped down trees and ripped up fences.*

RISE

rose, risen, rising

rise above

1 **rise above** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

if someone rises above a bad situation or bad influences, they do not let these things affect them because they have courage, determination, or strong moral principles: *Roosevelt had the ability to rise above the petty prejudices of party politics.* | *Even in the darkest moments, she could rise above all the problems and emerge triumphant.*

2 **rise above** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be much better than the standard that someone or something else achieves: *Coleman is one player capable of rising above the mediocre performance of his team.* | *boxing that seldom rose above the level of a bar-room brawl*

rise against

rise against *sb/sth*

if a group of people rise against their rulers or government, they start to fight against them in order to remove them from power: *In 1946 Ho Chi Minh urged the Vietnamese to rise against their French colonial rulers.*

rise up

1 **rise up**

if a mountain, cliff, wall etc rises up, it appears as a very tall shape: *Sheer cliffs rose up around them on all sides.* | *steep forested banks rising up from the waters of the lake*

2 **rise up**

to go upwards: *The birds suddenly rose up in the air and flew away.* | *Smoke was rising up from the chimney.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rise**

3 **rise up**

if a feeling or thought rises up in you, you suddenly have that feeling or thought: *I could feel the anger rising up inside me.* | *A terrible thought rose up in Pat's mind.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **well up** *literary*

4 **rise up**

if a group of people rise up, they start to fight against their rulers or government in order to remove them from power: *One day the people will rise up and overthrow this tyrant.*

+ against *The peasants rose up in armed rebellion against King Richard.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rebel**

uprising N [C]
a violent attempt by a group of people to defeat their rulers or government in order to remove them from power: *the popular uprising against President Ceauşescu*

5 **rise up**

to stand after you have been sitting, kneeling, or lying down: *The young organist stopped playing and rose up from his seat.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rise, stand up**

ROAR

roared, roared, roaring

roar out

roar out *sth* **roar out**

to shout or sing something in a deep, very loud voice, or to make a deep, very loud noise: *He roared out songs at the top of his voice.* | *a gramophone roaring out 'The St Louis Blues March'*

R

ROB

robbed, robbed, robbing

rob of

rob *sb/sth* **of** *sth*

to take away an important quality, ability etc from someone or something: *Wilson's early failures had robbed him of confidence.* | *a literal translation that has robbed the poems of their power and mystery* | *Black Americans had been robbed of their basic rights by the state legislature.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **deprive of**

ROLL

rolled, rolled, rolling

roll around ALSO roll about *BrE*

roll around/about USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to laugh at something so much that your body moves around: *Hector's jokes had us all rolling about helplessly.*

roll around with laughter *The two boys were rolling around with laughter at the thought of what had happened.*

roll around ALSO roll round *BrE*

roll around/round

if something that happens regularly rolls around, especially a time, day, or season, it comes again as expected: *We all pray the war will be over before Christmas rolls around again.* | *Carey took a siesta in the shade, and by the time evening rolled around, he felt fit to head for home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come around**

roll away

roll away

literary if countryside rolls away, you can see for a long distance over it: *The grassy plains roll away in all directions as far as you can see.*

roll back

1 **roll back** *sth* **roll** *sth* **back**

to reduce the power or influence of a system, government etc, which has been increasing too much: *Republican senators talked of rolling back communist influence in Asia.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

2 **roll** *sth* **back** **roll back** *sth*

AmE if the government or someone in authority rolls back something, they reduce the price of it: *The Senate voted to roll back the gas tax by 5 cents a gallon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce, cut**

R

3 **roll back** *sb/sth* **roll** *sb/sth* **back**

to force an enemy army to move back from its position: *Von Ludendorff's army pressed forward in the hope of rolling back the British to the Channel.*

* SIMILAR TO: **push back**

4 **roll back the years**

to make people remember something good that happened in the past, especially by doing something similar in the present: *With such wonderful performances at the age of 40, Jimmy Connors can still roll back the years and reach into his glorious past.*

roll by

years/months roll by

if years or months roll by, time passes, especially quickly: *As the years rolled by, we saw less and less of our wealthy cousins.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass, go by**

roll down

roll down *sth* **roll** *sth* **down**

especially AmE to open a car window by making the glass move down using a handle or a button

roll down the window *Mom, will you roll down your window a little?*

* SIMILAR TO: **wind down** *BrE*

● OPPOSITE: **roll up** *especially AmE*, **wind up** *BrE*

roll in

1 **roll in** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if money, letters etc roll in, large amounts of them arrive, especially continuously: *Since Kylie appeared on her first TV show, letters from fans have kept rolling in.*

come rolling in *Sales of the new drug were very high and the profits came rolling in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour in**

2 **roll in**

if clouds, storms, mist etc roll in, they move into an area and begin to cover the sky or the land: *A thin blanket of fog rolled in from the sea.* | *electric storms rolling in across the savannah*

3 **be rolling in it/money**

informal to be very rich: *Derringer owns a mansion in Beverly Hills, so he must be rolling in money.* | *Her new husband's absolutely rolling in it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **filthy rich**

roll in/into

roll in **roll into** *sth*

informal if someone rolls in, they arrive somewhere later than they should, and often they do not seem to care about being late: *It was after midnight when he finally rolled in. He hadn't even bothered to phone us.* | *You can't just roll into the office an hour late without some sort of explanation.*

roll on

1 **roll on**

if a period of time, or a process rolls on, it continues to pass or happen, especially slowly: *As the 1960's rolled on, it became apparent that there had been a major change in social attitudes.* | *The long ceremony rolled on towards its climax.*

2 **roll on Friday/summer/the weekend etc!**

BrE spoken informal used to say that you want a more enjoyable time such as Friday or the weekend to come soon: *This job is so exhausting – roll on the weekend!*

roll out

1 **roll out** *sth* **roll** *sth* **out**

to make a food mixture flat and thin before you cook it, by rolling a tube-shaped object over it: *Roll out the pastry thinly on a lightly floured surface.* | *Mix the dough and roll it out about 1 cm thick.*

2 **roll out** *sth* **roll** *sth* **out**

to unfold something that has been folded into a round shape and make it flat and straight on the ground: *We rolled out our sleeping bags inside the tent.*

3 **roll out** *sth* **rool** *sth* **out**

especially AmE informal to make a new product available for people to buy or use: *L'Oreal rolled out a line of skin-care products called Plenitude.*

* SIMILAR TO: **introduce, launch**

roll over

1a **roll over**

to turn your body when you are lying down, so that you are lying on the other side of your body: *She rolled over and went back to sleep.* | *Rolling over onto his stomach, he reached down over the side of the bed.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

1b **roll** *sb* **over**

to turn someone's body when they are lying down so that they are lying on the other side of their body: *Magee knelt beside the dying man and rolled him over onto his back*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

2 **roll over** *sth* **roll** *sth* **over**

especially AmE to officially arrange to pay a debt later than you are usually supposed to: *The government has approved a law that rolls over the tax debt until the following year.*

3 **roll over**

spoken informal to allow someone to force you to do something without making any effort to stop them: *The bastards are trying to close down your business. You're not going to roll over and let them do it, are you?*

4 **roll over** *sth*

BrE to add all of one week's prize money to the following week's prize money in the national lottery (= a game in which millions of people buy numbered tickets and a few win prizes) *There were no winners in this week's draw, so the £12 million jackpot will be rolled over to next week.*

roll-over N [C]
BrE the addition of the prize money from one week to the prize money of the following week in the national lottery: *A £19 million roll-over jackpot is waiting to be won in Saturday's draw.*

roll up

1 **roll up** *sth* **roll** *sth* **up**

to turn the ends of your sleeves or trousers over several times in order to make them shorter. Sleeves are the parts of a shirt or jacket that cover your arms

roll up your sleeves/trousers *The boatmen rolled up their trouser legs and waded ashore.* | *Taking off my jacket, I rolled up my shirtsleeves and plunged my hands into the oily water..*

2 **roll up** *sth* **roll** *sth* **up**

to make something made of paper, cloth etc into the shape of a tube or ball, by folding it over several times: *Just roll up the carpet and take it downstairs.* | *She paused to roll up the magazines and push them into her bag.*

rolled-up ADJ
rolled-up paper, cloth etc has been folded over and made into the shape of a tube or ball: *Bertie was busy swatting flies with a rolled-up newspaper.*

3 **roll up** *sth* **roll** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to wrap something in paper, cloth, bread etc that forms a tube shape around it

+ in *On the table there was a bunch of asparagus rolled up in newspaper.* | *spicy dishes consisting of chicken pieces rolled up in corn tortillas*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

roll-up N [C]
BrE a cigarette that you make for yourself by wrapping special paper around loose tobacco: *Wayne would sit in a corner of the bar smoking roll-ups and sipping Guiness.*

4 **roll up**

if an animal rolls up, it curls its body into the shape of a ball with its tail close to its head: *When threatened, a hedgehog will roll up into a tight ball.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **curl up**

5 **roll up**

to arrive somewhere, especially in large numbers or in a vehicle: *Thousands rolled up to watch the race.* | *She had her eye on Rupert Davenport, who had just rolled up in a dark green Ferrari.*

6 **Roll up, roll up!**

BrE spoken used at a public show or other event, especially an outdoor one, to call people who are passing to come and watch the show or buy things: *Roll up, roll up for the Greatest Show on Earth !*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **Step right up!** *AmE*

7 **roll up** *sth* **roll** *sth* **up**

especially AmE to close a car window by making the glass move up using a handle or a button

roll up the window *I rolled up my window – it was getting cold.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wind up** *BrE*

R

ROMP

romped, romped, romping

romp through

romp through *sth*

BrE informal to succeed in doing something quickly and easily: *Sampras romped through every game and won the first set 6–0.* | *Bilingual children usually romp through their spoken French exams, but achieve lower grades in written French and literature.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sail through, breeze through**

ROOF

roofed, roofed, roofing

roof in/over

roof in/over *sth* | **roof** *sth* **in/over**

BrE to cover an open space by building a roof over it: *We're going to roof in the yard to make a garage. | The old swimming pool had been roofed over with glass panels.*

ROOM

roomed, roomed, rooming

room with

room with *sb*

AmE to share the room that you live in with someone, for example at college: *You remember Maria – I roomed with her at college.*

R

ROOT

rooted, rooted, rooting

root for

1 **root for** *sb*

informal to give support or encouragement to someone in a competition, test, or difficult situation, because you want them to succeed: *Good luck – we'll all be rooting for you!*

2 **root for** *sb*

especially AmE to support a sports team or player by shouting and cheering: *We were all rooting for Green Bay to win the NFC Championship Game.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cheer on**

be rooted in

be rooted in *sth*

to have developed from something and be strongly influenced by it: *policies that are rooted in Marxist economic theory | Much of Housman's poetry was rooted in the literary traditions of ancient Rome.*

root out

1 **root out** *sth/sb* | **root** *sth/sb* **out**

to find out where a particular kind of problem exists and get rid of the problem or the people that are causing it – use this about problems in society or in an organization: *The new Chief Officer promised to root out corruption and inefficiency in the city's police force. | The Irish people must take action to root out the killers in their midst. | a campaign to root out racism and sexism in the music industry*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, eradicate** *formal*

2 **root out** *sth* | **root** *sth* **out**

informal to find something by searching for it, especially when it is difficult to find: *I've got a sleeping bag somewhere – I'll root it out for you next time you come.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dig out**

root up

root *sth* **up** | **root up** *sth*

to dig or pull a plant and its roots out of the ground: *I'll just root up these weeds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull up, dig up, uproot**

ROPE

roped, roped, roping

rope in/into

rope *sb* **in** | **rope in** *sb*

rope *sb* **into** *sth*

informal to persuade someone to help you do something, especially when they do not want to

get roped in *Whenever they need someone to look after the kids, I get roped in.*

rope sb into doing sth *Have they roped you into selling tickets?*

rope sb in to do sth *We've roped Dad in to help with the entertainment.*

rope off

rope off *sth* | **rope** *sth* **off**

to put ropes around an area, to stop people from going into it: *Last night police roped off the area where the body was found and searched the undergrowth.*

ROT

rotted, rotted, rotting

rot away

rot away

if something rots away, it decays by a gradual natural process until it disappears: *Marie passed the old chalets, neglected and boarded up now, their paint peeling, their woodwork rotting away. | Out in the rain-soaked fields, the diseased potato crop was gradually rotting away.*

rot down

rot down

BrE if leaves, plants etc rot down, they decay by a gradual natural process and become soil: *Cover the weeds with black plastic so that they rot down. | If you cut up leaves before putting them on the compost heap, they rot down much quicker.*

ROUGH

roughed, roughed, roughing

rough in

rough in *sth* **rough** *sth* **in**

to add something to a picture that you are drawing or painting, without showing all the exact details: *You can see where the artist has roughed in another figure in the background.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sketch in**

rough out

rough out *sth* **rough** *sth* **out**

BrE to draw or write something without including all the exact details: *I sat down at my desk and began to rough out a poem.* | *a diagram the engineer had roughed out on his notepad*

* SIMILAR TO: **sketch out**

rough up

1 **rough up** *sb* **rough** *sb* **up**

informal to attack someone and hurt them by hitting them: *It wasn't worth the risk of being arrested and getting roughed up by the police.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat up**

2 **rough up** *sth* **rough** *sth* **up**

to make the surface of something rough: *Spread the cake with the buttercream and rough it up a little with a fork.*

ROUND

rounded, rounded, rounding

round down

round down *sth* **round** *sth* **down**

to reduce an exact number to the nearest whole number, or the nearest 10, 100 etc, in order to make it simpler

+ **to** *Please do not include pence. Round down your calculations to the nearest pound. Example: £17,582.45 becomes £17,582.*

● COMPARE: **round up, round off**

round off

1 **round off** *sth* **round** *sth* **off**

to be a pleasant and suitable way of ending an event, or to do something as a pleasant and suitable way of ending it: *Fresh strawberries will round the meal off nicely.* | *We rounded off the session with a Jazz number.*

+ **with** *We rounded off the evening with carols around the Christmas tree.*

* SIMILAR TO: **finish off, top off**

2 **round off** *sth* **round** *sth* **off** **round off**

to change an exact number to the nearest whole number: *Peter's net income after taxes was $3,159 (rounding off to the nearest dollar).* | *You can work the sum out mentally by rounding off the £1.19 to £1.20, and taking away 1p.*

● COMPARE: **round down, round up**

3 **round off** *sth* **round** *sth* **off**

if you round off the sharp edges or corners of an object, you make them smooth and round by rubbing them with a special tool: *Use an electric sander to round off the corners.*

round on/upon

● **Round upon** is more formal than **round on** and is used mostly in writing.

round on/upon *sb*

BrE to suddenly attack someone when they do not expect it, either physically or by speaking angrily to them: *Harry got up out of his seat in a flash and rounded on the man: "Don't dare to speak to me that way. If you insult me again I'll punch your fat head."* | *Sibyl rounded on him, knife in hand, and he moved back out of her reach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn on/upon**

R

round out

round out *sth* **round** *sth* **out**

to make something more complete: *A side dish of garlicky potato salad rounded out the meal nicely.* | *Paul Jenkins on bass guitar and Mark Hays on drums round out the rhythm section on this pleasing set of 10 original tunes.*

round up

1 **round** *sb/sth* **up** **round up** *sb/sth*

to find and gather a group of people or animals together: *See if you can round up a few friends to help you.* | *Shane and two other cowboys rounded up the ponies and drove them into the corral.*

round-up N [C]
an occasion when animals are collected together: *the annual cattle round-up*

2 **round up** *sb* **round** *sb* **up**

to search for and find a particular group of people and force them to go to prison: *Police quickly rounded up dozens of suspected terrorists and threw them in jail.* | *74,000 French Jews were rounded up by the Nazis and shipped to concentration camps.*

round-up N [C]
when a particular group of people are taken away and forced to go to prison: *a round-up of suspected drug dealers*

3 **round up** *sth* | **round** *sth* **up**

to increase an exact number to the nearest higher whole number, or the nearest 10, 100 etc above it: *The total came to $299.50, so I rounded it up to $300.*

● COMPARE: **round down, round off**

round upon

SEE **round on/upon**

ROUT

routed, routed, routing

rout out

1 **rout out** *sb/sth* | **rout** *sb/sth* **out**

to force someone or something to come out of the place where they are

+ of *The dog had routed a rabbit out of its hole and was chasing it across the field.*

* SIMILAR TO: **force out**

2 **rout out** *sth* | **rout** *sth* **out**

to search among things and find the thing you are looking for: *Mum's routing out all our spare clothes to give to homeless families.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig out, hunt out**

RUB

rubbed, rubbed, rubbing

rub along

rub along

BrE old-fashioned informal if two people rub along, they live or work together in a fairly friendly way: *Our sex life came to an end years ago, but we rub along alright most of the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get along**

rub down

1 **rub down** *sb/sth* | **rub** *sb/sth* **down**

to dry a person or animal by rubbing them with a towel (=a piece of cloth used for drying your skin) *He was rubbing down his horse in the stable yard.*

rub-down N [C]
when you dry yourself with a towel: *After a brief shower and a rub-down with a face cloth and towel, I was feeling refreshed.*

2 **rub down** *sth* | **rub** *sth* **down**

to make a surface smooth by rubbing it with sandpaper (=special paper that is rough on one side) *The surface must be rubbed down with very fine sandpaper to make it as smooth as possible.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sand down**

rub-down N [C]
when you make a surface smooth by rubbing it with sandpaper: *Give the woodwork a light rub-down with sandpaper before painting.*

3 **rub down** *sb* | **rub** *sb* **down**

to rub someone's body and press their muscles to make them relax: *Smith's back had tightened up after the game, and now he was on the massage table being rubbed down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **massage**

rub-down N [C]
when you rub someone's body and press their muscles to make them relax: *The trainer gave him a rub-down to ease the pain in his muscles.*

rub in

1 **rub it in**

especially spoken to deliberately remind someone about a fact that they want to forget because they are upset or embarrassed about it

don't rub it in *"Remember, while you're unemployed, I have to pay for everything." "All right, there's no need to rub it in."*

2 **rub** *sth* **in** | **rub in** *sth*

rub *sth* **into** *sth*

to put a cream or oil onto someone's skin, hair etc and rub it in order to make it go into their skin, hair etc: *Always keep hand cream available in the bathroom or kitchen and rub it in frequently.*

rub off

1a **rub off** *sth* | **rub** *sth* **off**

rub *sth* **off** *sth*

to remove something from a surface by rubbing it: *Mr Owen took one look at the drawing on the chalkboard, and rubbed it off. | Elaine gave Stephen a tentative kiss on the cheek, leaving a red lipstick mark which he quickly rubbed off.*

1b **rub off**

to come off the surface of something because of being rubbed: *A woman shopper noticed that the coin was a forgery when the gold colouring began to rub off.*

2 **rub off**

if someone else's quality, feeling, or habit rubs off on you, you start to have it too because you are with that person

rub off on/onto *He competes so hard, it rubs off onto the rest of the team and makes them better. | The teacher's enthusiasm had clearly rubbed off on the children.*

rub off *We hoped that some of Procter's fighting spirit would rub off and inspire the others.*

rub out

1 **rub out** *sth* **rub** *sth* **out**

BrE to remove writing or pictures from paper by rubbing it with a piece of rubber, or remove writing or pictures from a board by rubbing it with a cloth: *Do it in pencil first then you can rub it out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **erase** *AmE*

2 **rub** *sb* **out**

AmE old-fashioned informal to murder someone: *The gang got to hear about Casey talking to the cops. That's why they rubbed him out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bump off** *BrE informal*

RUCK

rucked, rucked, rucking

ruck up

ruck up **ruck up** *sth* **ruck** *sth* **up**

especially BrE if a piece of cloth or clothing rucks up or if you ruck it up, it gets pulled upwards and forms folds in an untidy way: *Flora had bent forward, rucking up her skirt.*

be rucked up *Your shirt's all rucked up at the back.*

RUFFLE

ruffled, ruffled, ruffling

ruffle up

ruffle up *sth* **ruffle** *sth* **up**

to make a smooth surface uneven: *She ruffled up his hair affectionately.* | *Birds ruffle up their feathers to keep warm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **muss up**

RULE

ruled, ruled, ruling

rule out

1 **rule out** *sth* **rule** *sth* **out**

to decide that something is not possible or suitable: *The police have ruled out homicide, saying Hall either fell from the high waterfront walkway or committed suicide.* | *The company is planning extensive reorganization and job losses cannot be ruled out.* | *Well I wouldn't rule out a two-bedroom house if it was a nice one, but I'm really looking for a something larger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dismiss**

2 **rule out** *sth* **rule** *sth* **out**

to make it impossible for something to happen: *The severe weather ruled out any attempts to reach the survivors by helicopter.*

RUMBLE

rumbled, rumbled, rumbling

rumble on

rumble on

especially BrE if a difficult or unpleasant situation rumbles on, it continues for a long time: *Arguments with the Soviet Union rumbled on into 1947.* | *Luxury items remain unsold in the shops as the recession rumbles on.*

RUN

ran, ran, running

run across

run across *sb/sth*

to meet someone or find something by chance: *Lord Archer ran across his old friend as he was coming out of his club.* | *I ran across an advertisement in the Times, which said they were looking for English teachers in Japan.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across**

run after

1 **run after** *sb/sth*

to chase someone or something: *My father ran after the thieves, but they got away.* | *She began to run after him, calling his name.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chase, pursue** *formal*

2 **run after** *sb*

informal to keep trying to persuade someone to have a sexual relationship with you, because you feel sexually attracted to them: *When we were at college she was always running after some man or other.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chase**

run along

run along!

old-fashioned spoken used to tell a child to go away: *Run along now children! It's time you were in bed!*

* SIMILAR TO: **off you go!** *spoken*

run around ALSO run round *BrE*

run around/round

to be very busy doing a lot of different things, and rushing from one place to another

run around/round doing sth *I've been running around all morning trying to get everything ready for Cathy's birthday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rush around**

R

run around after
ALSO **run round after** *BrE*

run around/round after *sb*

to be busy doing a lot of small jobs for someone, like a servant, especially when that person could easily do all these jobs himself or herself: *His last wife got fed up with running around after him all the time. | She seemed content to let Valerie run around after her and do everything for her.*

run around with

run around with *sb*

informal to spend a lot of time with someone and be friendly with them: *Tony used to run around with a gang of friends from art college. | He had forgotten the faces of most of the girls he ran around with at university.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang out with** *informal, especially AmE*

R

run away

1 **run away**

to leave somewhere by running, especially in order to escape from something or someone: *When the police arrived, one man ran away and the other made his escape in a car. | Higgs said he saw two youths running away from the scene just before the fire was discovered.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run off, flee**

2 **run away**

to leave the place where you live, your family etc, especially without telling anyone, because you are unhappy there or want a completely different kind of life: *When she was young she had wanted to run away and join the circus.*

run away from home *Darren was always getting in trouble at school and ran away from home five times in two years.*

runaway N [C]
someone who has secretly run away from their home or the place where they usually live: *Many homeless people start out as teenage runaways from broken homes.*

runaway ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
having secretly run away from home or the place where you usually live: *Jim, the runaway slave in 'Huckleberry Finn'*

3 **run away**

to try to avoid dealing with a problem or a difficult situation

+ from *He shouldn't keep running away from his responsibilities. | You can't run away from these things forever. Sooner or later the past will catch up with you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **avoid**

run away with

1 **run away with** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to secretly leave your wife, husband etc, in order to go and live with someone else and have a sexual relationship with them: *Céline abandoned his wife and ran away to Italy with a singer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run off with, go off with**

2 **run away with** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to win something easily such as a competition, game, or prize: *Jackie Stewart was able to run away with the championship, scoring nearly twice as many points as his nearest rival, Ronnie Peterson.*

* SIMILAR TO: **walk off with, walk away with**

3 **let your imagination/emotions/feelings run away with you**

to become very excited, upset, or worried, because you think that something may have happened, even though this seems very unlikely: *"Maybe he's been involved in some kind of accident!" "You mustn't let your imagination run away with you. I'm sure he's OK."*

4 **run away with the idea/impression**

informal to wrongly think that something is true, or that you should do something, because of what you know about a situation: *I don't want people running away with the idea that this is going to be easy. It's not.*

run by

1 **run** *sth* **by** *sb* **again**

informal to say something again to someone, in order to make sure they have understood it: *Sorry, I was thinking about something else. Can you run that one by me again?*

2 **run** *sth* **by** *sb*

informal to tell someone about something such as a plan or idea, in order to find out their opinion about it, or to make sure that they agree with it: *It sounds like a good idea, but we'd better run it by Michael first.*

run down

1 **run down** *sb* **run** *sb* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to drive into someone and hurt or kill them: *I almost got run down by a bus as I was crossing the road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run over, knock down**

2 **run** *sb/sth* **down** **run down** *sb/sth*

to criticize someone or something, especially in a way that seems unfair: *Never run down your previous employer at an interview. It will always reflect badly on you.*

run yourself down *As a nation we're always running ourselves down, instead of being proud of our achievements.*

* SIMILAR TO: **criticize, knock**

3 **be run down**

to feel tired and unhealthy because you have been working too hard, not getting enough sleep, or worrying a lot about something: *Is Sue all right? She looked rather run down when I last saw her.* | *I was feeling generally run down and in need of a vacation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exhausted**

4 **run down** **run down** *sth*

run *sth* **down**

if a battery, watch etc runs down, or you run it down, it gradually loses power until there is none left: *The toy stopped moving. Its batteries had obviously run down.* | *Someone had left the lights on and run down the car's battery.*

5 **run down** *sth* **run** *sth* **down**

BrE to gradually reduce the amount of work that a company or other organization does, in order to prepare for closing it: *BSEL say they will run down the shipyard unless another buyer is found.* | *The local hospital was being run down and no longer took emergency cases.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wind down**

6 **run down** *sth* **run** *sth* **down**

to let something such as a company, an organization, or a country's economy get into very bad condition: *Every time a new party gets into power, they always accuse the previous government of running down the economy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ruin**

7 **run down** **run down** *sth*

run *sth* **down**

if supplies of something run down, or are run down, they gradually all get used until there is none left: *It is estimated that supplies of gas from the North Sea will start to run down between now and the end of the century.*

8 **run down** *sth*

to quickly look at or read aloud a list of things or people: *Do you want me to run down the list of possible candidates?*

* SIMILAR TO: **run through**

rundown N [SINGULAR]
a short report or explanation in which you mention the most important information: *She began by giving a brief rundown of the decisions that had been made at the previous meeting.*

9 **run** *sb/sth* **down**

BrE to find someone or something that you have been looking for: *I finally managed to run him down at his club in Mayfair.*

* SIMILAR TO: **track down**

10 **run down** *sth* **run** *sth* **down**

to chase after something and succeed in stopping it: *Shane managed to run down the ball just before it reached the boundary.*

run for

1 **run for** *sth*

to try to be elected to a particular position: *Burns wants to run for governor at the next election.* | *Observers in Oklahoma see Watts eventually running for the Senate.*

run for office (=try to be elected to an important political position) *Hillary has made no secret of her wish to run for office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand for**

2 **run for it**

to run as quickly as you can, especially in order to escape from someone or something: *When he saw the police coming, Riney decided to run for it.* | *I think he's seen us. We'd better run for it.*

R

run in

1 **run** *sb* **in** **run in** *sb*

old-fashioned informal if the police run someone in, they catch that person and take them to the police station: *Southend police ran in a young man for speeding yesterday, and discovered that he had been involved in the robbery.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arrest**

2 **run** *sth* **in** **run in** *sth*

BrE if you run in a new car, you drive it slowly and carefully at first, in order to avoid damaging the engine: *The car had a sign on the back which read 'Running in. Please pass.'*

run into

1 **run into** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to meet someone you know by chance, when you did not expect to meet them: *While I was in Paris I ran into an old schoolfriend who I hadn't seen in years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bump into, run across, come across**

2 **run into** *sth*

if you run into problems, difficulties etc, you suddenly experience them and have to deal with them, especially when you did not expect them: *The company had run into financial difficulties during the recession.* | *Streibl recently ran into trouble over allegations that he took free trips which were paid for by a defence company.* | *Plans to build another runway at Heathrow airport have run into strong opposition from local residents and environmental groups.*

* SIMILAR TO: **meet with, encounter** *formal*

3 **run into hundreds/thousands/millions etc**

to reach a total of several hundreds, thousands etc – used to talk about the total cost of something, or the total number of people killed by something: *The cost of repairing the damage is expected to run into millions of dollars.* | *A spokesperson for the Austrian government said that the death toll could run into hundreds.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **reach**

4 **run into** *sth*

to accidentally drive into something such as a car or a wall: *Someone had run into the back of the bus.* | *Di and Dodi were killed when their car ran into a wall at high speed in Paris.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drive (into)**

5 **run into** *sth*

if one thing runs into another, for example another word, colour, or quality, it joins it and mixes with it, so that is difficult to notice where one ends and the other begins: *The words seemed to run into each other, and I couldn't catch what she was saying.* | *It was strange how good and bad could run into each other, could appear as interchangeable.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **merge into**

R

run off

1 **run off**

to leave somewhere by running, for example to avoid being caught: *The robbers ran off down a nearby street.* | *Her T-shirt caught fire and she ran off screaming.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **flee**

2 **run off**

to suddenly leave someone or leave the place where you live, without telling anyone: *His wife ran off and left him.* | *The popular story is that Arthur was so heartbroken that he ran off to Africa.*

3 **run off** *sth* **run** *sth* **off**

to quickly print several copies of something: *Nowadays you can run off your invitations on a laser printer for virtually nothing.* | *Authors were allowed to visit the printers while their books were being run off, in order to make any alterations.*

4 **run off** *sth* **run** *sth* **off** *sth*

if something runs off a power supply, it works by using the power from it: *It's designed to run off batteries or mains electricity.* | *The stove was run off a portable generator, which was kept in the basement.*

5 **run off** *sth* **run** *sth* **off**

to write something quickly and easily, for example a letter, poem, or the words to a song: *Lennon later said that he and Paul ran off the song in a taxi on the way to the recording studio.*

run off with

1 **run off with** *sb*

to secretly go away with someone and have a sexual relationship with them, especially when other people disapprove of this: *His wife ran off with the insurance man, and left him with two kids to bring up on his own.* | *Gillian was thirteen when her father ran off with one of his pupils who'd left school a year earlier.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go off with, run away with**

2 **run off with** *sth*

informal to steal something and take it away: *Her employers thought she had run off with the family silver.* | *Don't worry! I'm not going to run off with it!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go off with** *informal*

run on

1 **run on** *sth* **run** *sth* **on** *sth*

to operate using a particular kind of computer or computer system, or to make something do this: *The software will run on any PC.* | *In those days all our machines ran on OS2.* | *Can you run it on Windows 98?*

2 **run on**

to continue happening for longer than was expected: *The meeting ran on until after 6 o'clock.*

3 **run on** *sth* **run** *sth* **on** *sth*

to use a particular kind of fuel or power supply, or make something do this: *Every new car that is sold in the UK must be able to run on unleaded fuel.* | *You can run the stove on coal or firewood.*

4 **run on**

AmE to talk for a long time, especially when other people are not interested in what you are talking about

+ about *My dad will run on for hours about golf if you give him the chance.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jabber away** *informal*, **chatter (on), go on** *informal*, **ramble on**

run out

1 **run out**

if you run out of something, you have no more of it left because you have used all of it: *"Is there any more cat food?" "No. We've run out."*

run out of sth *He'd better hurry up. We're running out of time.* | *The vehicle slowed and came to a halt. "We've run out of gas," said Vito.* | *They never seemed to run out of things to say to each other.* | *The guerrillas finally ran out of ammunition and withdrew.*

2 **run out**

if something runs out, there is no more of it left: *Their adventure lasted until the money ran out.* | *My husband tries to be sympathetic, but I can tell his patience is running out.* | *Brazil's luck ran out in the final and they lost to France 3–0.*

3 **run out**

if ticket or an official document or agreement runs out, it reaches the end of the time when it is officially allowed to be used or have an effect: *His contract with the club is due to run out in December.* | *My passport won't run out for at least another year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **expire**

4 **run out of steam** ALSO **run out of gas** *AmE*

to no longer feel eager to do something, or no longer feel that you have enough energy to continue: *Nazeem starts really fast, but he tends to run out of steam after he's been boxing for a few rounds.* | *The Republicans' campaign to get rid of Clinton began to run out of gas.*

5 **run** *sb* **out** **run out** *sb*

BrE to end a player's period of play in a game of cricket, by touching or throwing the ball against the wickets (=the sets of sticks that the players run between to get points) *Lara was run out by the Australians, after scoring yet another century for the West Indies.*

6 **run out** *sth* **run** *sth* **out**

if you run out a length of rope or line, you let it unwind and go away from you: *One of the climbers stood on the edge of the cliff face and ran out about 50 foot of rope.*

run out of

1 **run out of** *sth*

SEE **run out**

2 **run** *sb* **out of** *sth*

old-fashioned to force someone to leave a town or area, because they have done something wrong and you are very angry with them: *They burnt the house down and ran him out of the district.*

run sb out of town *Her father threatened to run him out of town if he so much as went near the girl.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hound out**

run out on

run out on *sb*

to suddenly leave your wife, husband, friends etc, and cause a lot of problems for them: *Joey's wife had run out on him 13 years earlier.* | *Yehudi was not in his bed. "He's run out on us," I said to myself. "That's the last we'll ever see of him."*

* SIMILAR TO: **walk out on, desert**

run over

1 **run over** *sb/sth* **run** *sb/sth* **over**

to drive over someone or something, especially with the result that they are injured or killed: *Barthes was run over by a laundry van as he was crossing a busy Paris street.* | *Lee was really upset when her cat got run over.* | *Some idiot in a white van nearly ran me over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, mow down**

2 **run over** *sth*

to quickly explain something to someone, especially a series of points or instructions: *I'll just run over how the burglar alarm works.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run through, go through**

3 **run over** *sth*

to quickly read or repeat something in order to remember it or to check that is correct: *Sean ran over his notes one last time, then made his way to the exam hall.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run through, go through**

4 **run over**

if a container runs over, it become too full of a liquid, and the liquid starts flowing over the side: *The woman filled up his glass until it started to run over.* | *Someone in an upstairs flat had let their bath run over, and there was water absolutely everywhere.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overflow**

5 **run over/run over time**

if a meeting, game, television programme etc runs over, it continues past the time when it was planned to end: *We should be through by eight, but the session might run over.* | *The show was running over time, and the director had to cut one of the scenes.*

+ into *The tunnel project ran over into the following year.*

6 **run over** *sb*

if a feeling runs over you, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *She felt a sudden shudder of fear run over her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run through, come over**

7 **your mind runs over** *sth*/ **run** *sth* **over in your mind**

to think about something such as a series of events or possibilities etc: *Quickly his mind ran over all the awful possibilities. Maybe they'd had some kind of accident, or even been killed.* | *Give yourself a few minutes to run it over in your mind, then tell me what you think.* | *She let her mind run over the events of the previous day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run through**

R

run round

SEE **run around**

run round after

SEE **run around after**

run through

1 **run through** *sth*

if an idea, quality, feeling etc runs through something, it is present in all of it: *This sense of sadness and loss runs through so many of Housman's poems.* | *Racism runs right through our society from top to bottom.* | *The main argument running through the article is that genetic research poses a threat to the future of mankind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pervade** *formal*

2 **run through** *sb*

if a feeling runs through you, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *A shudder ran through her at the thought of meeting Luke Calder again.* | *He felt a thrill of excitement run through him at the mention of her name.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run over, come over**

R

3 **run through** *sb's* **mind/head**

if something runs through your mind, you think about it or imagine it: *The thought ran through my mind that the other man was probably as frightened as I was.* | *Running through her mind, like a tape she couldn't switch off, was the newspaper story that Sebastian had been seen with another woman.*

4 **run through** *sth*

to think about or imagine something from beginning to end, especially a series of events, reasons, or instructions: *As he waited outside, he ran through the reasons why he thought he should get the job.* | *Helen ran through the scene in her mind again and again; maybe she had over-reacted.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go over**

5 **run through** *sth*

to quickly read or look at something, especially in order to check or find something: *Hartwig ran through the names in the notebook to see if there were any that he recognized.* | *Can we run through the videotape again? I just want to make sure we haven't missed anything.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go through**

6 **run through** *sth*

to quickly talk about or explain something from beginning to end, especially a series of events, reasons, or instructions: *Can you run through your movements on the night of the murder?* | *The woman quickly ran through the instructions with me. They seemed simple enough.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go over**

run-through N [C]
when someone quickly talks about or explains something: *The instructor gave me a quick run-through of the layout of the course.*

7 **run through** *sth*

to quickly do a series of things, especially in order to practise them: *I think we'll start by running through the opening dance routine.* | *There are a few more scenes from the play I'd like to run through before we take a break.*

run-through N [C]
when you quickly do a series of things, especially in order to practise them: *They did a complete run-through of the whole opera, and it went off perfectly.*

8 **run** *sth* **through** *sth*

if you run something through a computer, you ask the computer to check it, change it, do calculations with it etc, in order to provide you with the result you want: *The police run this information through a special computer, which has information on hundreds of thousands of criminals and suspected criminals.*

9 **run** *sb* **through**

BrE to push a sharp weapon through someone's body

+ with *Aung San rushed forward and ran him through with a bayonet.* | *When she first picked up the knife, I thought she was going to run me through with it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stab**

10 **run through**

to spend all of a large amount of money quickly and waste it: *The previous Earl had run through most of the family fortune at the casino in Monte Carlo.*

* SIMILAR TO: **squander**

run to

1 **run to** *sth*

to reach a particular number or amount, especially a large number or amount: *The Macpherson report runs to several hundred pages, and I haven't had time to read it all.* | *Dinner for two should run to around $50.* | *The cost of building and launching each shuttle can run to as much as $100 million.*

2 **can/will run to** *sth*

BrE to have enough money to be able to pay for something: *We couldn't quite run to vintage champagne, so we chose a decent bottle of wine instead.* | *Bill, the budget for the course will run to some new paintbrushes as well, won't it?*

3 **run to** *sb*

to go to someone and expect them to help or protect you, or tell you what you should do:

Natalie had run to her new lover, only to be turned away broken-hearted.

come running to sb (=expect someone to help and protect you when you should be able to deal with a problem yourself) *Whenever there's the slightest problem he always comes running to me for help.*

4 **sb's taste runs to** *sth*

if someone's taste runs to something, it is one of the things that they like: *I'm not sure if Edgar's taste in music would run to acid jazz.*

run up

1 **run up**

to suddenly run to where someone or something is and stop next to them: *A man with a gun ran up and shot him dead.*

+ to *Anne ran up to Mrs Lynde. "I hate you!" she shouted.*

2 **run up debts/losses/a bill/a deficit etc**

to borrow or lose a lot of money, or have to pay a big bill for something: *The Rome Opera company has run up debts of over $40 million. | While she was at college she ran up a huge phone bill. | In September Daiwa Bank announced that a New York bond trader had run up $1.1 billion in losses.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **accumulate** *formal*

3 **run up your credit card**

to spend a lot of money using your credit card: *He had no money of his own, he just ran up his wife's credit card until the bank stopped the card.*

4 **run up** *sth*

especially AmE to succeed in achieving something – use this to say how successful or unsuccessful someone has been: *The Sonics ran up 64 victories this year.*

5 **run up** *sth* **run** *sth* **up**

if you run up a flag, you raise it on a pole, usually by pulling a rope: *The school had run up the South African flag in honour of Mandela's visit.*

6 **run up** *sth* **run** *sth* **up**

BrE to quickly make something, especially a piece of clothing using a sewing machine: *If I give her the material, she can easily run up the dress for me at home.*

run up against

run up against *sth/sb*

to have to deal with unexpected problems or difficulties, a difficult opponent, or someone who stops you from being able to do what you want: *The developers have run up against strong opposition from the local community. | Have the Rockets finally run up against a team they can't beat? | He plays a truly malicious killer, who runs up against a small-town sheriff.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **run into, come up against**

RUSH

rushed, rushed, rushing

rush around ALSO rush about *BrE*

rush around/about

rush around/about *sth*

to move around quickly and busily doing a lot of things, especially when you feel you do not have enough time to do them all: *I've been rushing around all day trying to get ready to go on vacation. | Politicians are always rushing around the country before an election in order to gain support.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dash (about/around)**

rush in/into

rush in **rush into** *sth*

rush *sb* **into** *sth*

to do something very quickly, especially too quickly without thinking about it enough, or to make someone do this: *When you're buying a house, it's best not to rush in and buy the first thing that comes along. | The President insisted that he would not be rushed into a decision about sending troops into the area.*

rush into doing sth *The couple explained that they didn't want to rush into having children – they had their careers to think of first.*

rush into things *spoken* (=rush into something) *We haven't talked about marriage yet. We don't want to rush into things.*

not rush into anything *spoken I've been talking to various people about jobs – I'm not rushing into anything until I'm sure I've found what I want.*

rush off

rush off

to leave very suddenly or quickly, because you have to go somewhere or do something: *I wanted to talk to him, but he had to rush off to a meeting. | There's no need to rush off just yet, we've got plenty of time. | Sorry to rush off like this. I promise I'll be free tomorrow.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dash off** *informal*, **shoot off**

R

rush out

rush out *sth* | **rush** *sth* **out**

to produce a new product, book, or more copies of something very quickly, especially because a lot of people will want to buy it: *A special video of the series was rushed out in time for Christmas.* | *Xcelerated Systems Inc. from San Diego has rushed out Version 1.2 of its Liken software.*

rush through

rush through *sth* | **rush** *sth* **through**

to pass a law or deal with official business as quickly as possible: *As a result of a serious increase in the level of political violence, the government rushed through the Public Order Act.*

* SIMILAR TO: **push through**

R

RUST

rusted, rusted, rusting

rust away

rust away

to be damaged and gradually destroyed by rust. Rust is the brown or red substance that forms on the surface of iron and steel when it is wet: *He had an old Cadillac which was quietly rusting away in his garage.*

rust up

rust up

if something rusts up, so much rust forms on it that it does not work and cannot be used any more. Rust is the brown or red substance that forms on the surface of iron and steel when it gets wet: *The house had metal windows that had completely rusted up.*

be rusted up *The car radiator was all rusted up and it kept overheating.*

RUSTLE

rustled, rustled, rustling

rustle up

rustle up *sth* | **rustle** *sth* **up**

to find or make something quickly, especially something to eat or drink or the money that you need to do something: *Mel got up and went downstairs to rustle up some breakfast.* | *I don't think I can even rustle up enough money for a holiday this year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cobble together**

S

SACK OUT
sacked, sacked, sacking

sack out

sack out

AmE informal to lie down and go to sleep: *Jill sacked out early last night.*

SADDLE
saddled, saddled, saddling

saddle up

saddle up | **saddle up** *sth*

saddle *sth* **up**

to put a saddle (=a leather seat) on a horse's back: *We saddled up and set off back to the farm.* | *He began saddling up his horse, preparing to ride off with his bride-to-be.*

saddle with

be saddled with *sth*

to have a job, responsibility, or problem that you do not want, but have to deal with: *I've been saddled with the job of organizing the kids' party.* | *Germany is saddled with some of the highest labor costs in the world, which has reduced its competitiveness in the global economy.*

saddle yourself with a debt (=make yourself responsible for a debt) *Students are saddling themselves with enormous debts to pay their course fees and living expenses.*

saddle sb with sth (=give someone a debt or problem to deal with) *They managed the company's affairs badly, saddling NTN with crippling losses.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lumber with** *BrE informal*, **land with** *BrE*

SAFEGUARD
safeguarded, safeguarded, safeguarding

safeguard against

safeguard against *sth*

to do something that will prevent something bad from happening: *They have produced a leaflet to warn you of garden hazards, and how to safeguard against them.* | *The new security systems have proved insufficient to safeguard against computer fraud.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prevent**

SAIL
sailed, sailed, sailing

sail through

sail through | **sail through** *sth*

to pass a test or examination very easily and successfully, or to deal with a difficult experience easily without having any problems: *After sailing through her bronze and silver swimming awards, Fiona started working towards the gold.* | *Some women find pregnancy very traumatic, while others sail through without any problems at all.*

SALLY
sallied, sallied, sallying

sally forth

sally forth

literary or humorous to leave a place and go out in a brave and confident way to do something: *Ena Burke sallied forth from the kitchen, a large covered tray in her hands.* | *Beaufort was a massive fortress from which Richard's knights could sally forth to attack the enemy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **venture forth** *formal or humorous*

S

SALT
salted, salted, salting

salt away

salt away *sth* | **salt** *sth* **away**

to save money for the future by hiding it, especially money that you have got dishonestly: *Drug traffickers are salting away their funds, serving their prison sentences, and then coming out to a life of luxury.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stash away** *informal*

SAND
sanded, sanded, sanding

sand down

sand down *sth* | **sand** *sth* **down**

to make a surface smooth by rubbing it with special equipment or sandpaper (=special paper that is rough on one side) *Sand down the woodwork before you paint it.*

SANDWICH
sandwiched, sandwiched, sandwiching

be sandwiched between

be sandwiched between *sth*

to be in a space that seems to be too small, between two other much larger people or things: *The car was sandwiched between two big trucks.* | *He was sitting on the bus, sandwiched between two very large ladies.*

SAVE
saved, saved, saving

save on

1 **save on** *sth*

to spend less money on something than you did before: *If I cycled to work I could save on petrol.*

save on bills/costs/rent *We moved to a smaller apartment to save on rent. | The official Energy Efficiency Unit suggests these easy ways of saving on heating costs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **economize (on)**

2 **save on** *sth*

especially BrE to reduce the amount of work that you have to do, especially boring work: *Let's use paper plates – it'll save on the washing up. | A computerized system saves on paperwork.*

save up

save up | **save up** *sth* | **save** *sth* **up**

to keep money so that you can use it in the future, especially when you add more money every week, month etc: *If you want to buy a car, you'll have to start saving up. | We've saved up $2000 so far. | He saved up for years in order to buy that house in the country.*

+ for *I'm saving up for a holiday.*

S

SAVOUR *BrE* SAVOR *AmE*
savoured, savoured, savouring BrE
savored, savored, savoring AmE

savour of

savour of *sth*

formal if something savours of a bad quality, it seems to contain some of that quality: *William explained his plan to me, but his words savored of deliberate deceit. | The victim appears to have been poisoned, in a killing that savours of revenge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smack of**

SAW
sawed, sawn, sawing BrE
sawed, sawed, sawing AmE

saw up

saw up *sth* | **saw** *sth* **up**

to cut something into many pieces using a saw (=a tool that has a metal blade with v-shaped teeth) *I sawed up the tree for firewood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut up**

SAY
said, said, saying

say for

1 **it says a lot for** *sb/sth*

to show that someone or something has a lot of good qualities: *It says a lot for Nigel that he gives up his Saturdays to coach the kids' football team. | It says a lot for the African National Congress that, after eleven of their supporters were killed last week, they are still prepared to talk peace.*

2 **not say much for** *sth*

to show that something is not of a high standard or quality: *These results don't say much for the quality of the teaching. | His performance didn't say much for their training methods.*

SCALE
scaled, scaled, scaling

scale down/back

1 **scale down/back** *sth*

scale *sth* **down/back**

if a government, company etc scales something down, they make it smaller or do less of it than they did before or than they originally planned: *Conner Peripherals Inc said yesterday that it would be scaling down production and reducing staffing levels by 10%. | Since the end of the Cold War NATO countries have been scaling back their armed forces. | Several countries have scaled down their plans for expanding nuclear power. | The whole industry is scaling back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce, cut back**

● OPPOSITE: **scale up**

scaled-down/scaled-back ADJ
reduced or made smaller: *The planning committee eventually agreed on a scaled-down version of the project.*

scaling-down N [SINGULAR]
when something is scaled down: *scaling-down of the coal industry*

2 **scale down** *sth* | **scale** *sth* **down**

to reduce the size of something such as a drawing or a model of something: *The design might not look so good when it is scaled down for reproduction in newspapers and magazines.*

● OPPOSITE: **scale up**

scaled-down ADJ
reduced to a smaller size: *a scaled-down model of the statue*

scale up

1 **scale up** *sth* | **scale** *sth* **up**

if a government, company etc scales something up, they make it bigger or do more of it than they did before or than they originally planned: *The company is scaling up production of mobile phones to take advantage of the increasing demand.*

* SIMILAR TO: **increase**

● OPPOSITE: **scale down**

2 **scale up** *sth* | **scale** *sth* **up**

to increase the size of something such as a drawing or a model of something: *Does the software allow graphics to be scaled up or down?*

● OPPOSITE: **scale down**

SCAN

scanned, scanned, scanning

scan in

scan in *sth* | **scan** *sth* **in**

to copy images from paper onto a computer screen: *With a sheet-fed scanner, you can put in five or 10 pages of text and scan them in automatically.* | *The workers all had pictures of their families scanned into their computers and displayed on the corner of their screens.*

SCARE

scared, scared, scaring

scare away/off

1 **scare away/off** *sb* | **scare** *sb* **away/off**

to make a person or animal go away by frightening them: *We lit fires to scare away the wolves.* | *Luckily, her sister came home and scared the intruder off before he could do any harm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **frighten away/off**

2 **scare away/off** *sb* | **scare** *sb* **away/off**

to stop someone from doing something they intended to do, by making them feel worried or nervous: *Mayor Brown blamed the media for exaggerating the city's crime problem and scaring tourists away.* | *Rising prices are scaring off many potential customers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **frighten away/off**

scare up

scare up *sth/sb*

AmE informal to look for something or someone that may be difficult to find: *Sellers went to England, trying to scare up a buyer for the firm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scrounge up** *AmE*

SCHLEP

schlepped, schlepped, schlepping

schlep around

schlep around | **schlep around** *sth*

AmE spoken informal to waste time by doing almost nothing: *"What did you do today?" "Not much. I just schlepped around the house, really."*

* SIMILAR TO: **loaf around**

SCHOOL

schooled, schooled, schooling

be schooled in

be schooled in *sth*

old-fashioned if you are schooled in a way of thinking or a way of doing something, you have been taught it: *Victor Amadeus had been carefully schooled in the duties of a Catholic prince.*

SCOOP

scooped, scooped, scooping

S

scoop out

scoop out *sth* | **scoop** *sth* **out**

to remove the inside part of something using your hand, or a spoon: *Cut the melon in half and scoop out the seeds.*

scoop up

scoop up *sth* | **scoop** *sth* **up**

to put your hands under something and lift it up with a quick movement: *She put her hand into the pond and scooped up a tiny frog.* | *His mother scooped him up in her arms and cuddled him.*

SCOOT

scooted, scooted, scooting

scoot over

scoot over

AmE spoken informal to move in order to make space for another person: *Can you scoot over, please?*

* SIMILAR TO: **move over**

SCOPE

scoped, scoped, scoping

scope out

scope out *sth/sb* | **scope** *sth/sb* **out**

AmE informal to look at something or someone to see what they are like: *We used to scope out the prettiest girls first thing at our high*

school dances. | *The coalition has sent staff to scope out the housing situation for the city's homeless.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **check out**

SCORE

scored, scored, scoring

score off

score off *sb*

BrE to try to make someone seem stupid and make yourself seem clever, especially by saying something clever or funny: *I never liked Professor Lyle – he was always trying to score off his students.* | *Politicians don't debate anything seriously – they just exchange insults and try to score off each other.*

score out/through

score out/through *sth*

score *sth* **out/through**

old-fashioned to draw a line through something that has been written because it is wrong or unsuitable: *Mr Kronweiser thought for a moment, then neatly scored through the word 'unusual', and replaced it with 'exceptional'.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cross out, delete**

S

SCOUR

scoured, scoured, scouring

scour away

scour away *sth* **scour** *sth* **away**

if water or wind scours rock or land away, it removes it gradually over a long period of time: *Rain had scoured away the soft sandstone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **erode, wear away**

scour out

1 **scour out** *sth* **scour** *sth* **out**

to clean the inside part of something very thoroughly by rubbing it hard with a rough material: *The pans need to be scoured out.*

2 **scour out** *sth* **scour** *sth* **out**

if flowing water scours out a hole, pool, valley etc, it forms the hole, pool etc by continuous movement over a long period: *The stream had flowed down the mountainside and scoured out the perfectly formed pool below.*

SCOUT

scouted, scouted, scouting

scout around ALSO scout about/round BrE

scout around/about/round

to look for something in a particular area: *We haven't got much food in. I'll scout around in the village and see what I can get.*

+ **for** *I put up the tent and then went scouting round for firewood.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look around**

scout out

scout out *sth*

to examine an area in order to get information about it, especially in a military situation: *They had sent in advance troops to scout out the dangers.* | *American companies are eager to scout out business opportunities in Vietnam.*

scout round BrE

SEE **scout around**

SCRABBLE

scrabbled, scrabbled, scrabbling

scrabble around ALSO scrabble about/round BrE

1 **scrabble around/about/round**

especially BrE to try to find something by making quick movements with your fingers, often when you feel nervous: *She scrabbled around for a piece of paper to write on.* | *Digby's briefcase burst open, and his face burned red as 1000 delegates watched him scrabble about on the floor, trying to retrieve its contents.*

2 **scrabble around/about/round**

especially BrE to try to find a way of getting something that you need, when you are worried because you need it urgently

+ **for** *The government cut their funding without warning, and they found themselves scrabbling around for alternative sources of income.*

SCRAMBLE

scrambled, scrambled, scrambling

scramble for

scramble for *sth*

to struggle or compete with other people to get or reach something: *Thousands of football fans were scrambling for tickets to next week-end's All-Ireland Final at Croke Park in Dublin.* | *People scrambled for the exits as flames tore through the building.*

SCRAPE

scraped, scraped, scraping

scrape along

scrape along

to have just enough money to buy the things you need to live, but no more

+ on *Many children live in poverty, their families managing to scrape along on less than £150 a week.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get by, scrape by**

scrape by

1 **scrape by**

to have just enough money to buy the things you need to live, but no more: *My parents lent me some money, and somehow we managed to scrape by.*

+ on *Mature students with young families are having to scrape by on an inadequate student grant.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get by, scrape along**

2 **scrape by** | **scrape by** *sth*

AmE to only just succeed in doing something for example passing an examination or dealing with a situation: *When Mike finally scraped by his exams and got into college, Mary wept with joy.* | *In the end Dole just managed to scrape by in Iowa and lost New Hampshire.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **scrape through**

scrape in/into

scrape in | **scrape into** *sth*

to only just succeed in being accepted into a college, or a profession, or in winning an election, game, or race: *Our daughter Louise just scraped into university, but in the end she managed to get a good degree.* | *The Labour candidate scraped in with a majority of only 80 votes.*

scrape out

scrape out *sth* | **scrape** *sth* **out**

if you scrape out a bowl or other container, you use a knife or spoon to remove all the food or other substance that is stuck to its sides: *My mother spooned the cake mixture into a tin, and then gave me the bowl to scrape out.*

scrape through

scrape through | **scrape through** *sth*

to only just succeed in passing an examination or course, or in winning an election, game, or race: *I scraped through my final exams with grades only just high enough to secure me a place at college.*

+ to *The team had scraped through to the quarter-finals by beating Tondu 12–10.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **scrape by** AmE

scrape together/up

scrape together/up *sth*

scrape *sth* **together/up**

to succeed in getting enough money for a particular purpose, when this is very difficult to do: *Lucy Tucker, 24, was homeless in Pasadena, doing odd jobs to scrape up enough money to eat.* | *Though virtually penniless, he scraped enough money together to educate his six sons.* | *Finch built her first business with money scraped together from friends, family members and former employers.*

SCRATCH

scratched, scratched, scratching

scratch around ALSO scratch about/round BrE

1 **scratch around/about/round**

to struggle to get something that you need, such as money or food, often by searching in different places

+ for *There were still homeless people on the streets scratching around for a place to shelter.*

2 **scratch around/about/round**

to search for something on the ground using your hands or a stick: *A pathetic skinny dog was scratching around behind the dustbins searching for scraps of food.*

scratch out

scratch out *sth* | **scratch** *sth* **out**

to draw a line through a written word using a pen or knife, so that it cannot be read: *He looked through the book, but many of the names had been scratched out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cross out, score out/through**

scratch round BrE

SEE **scratch around**

SCREAM

screamed, screamed, screaming

scream out

scream out | **scream** *sth* **out**

to shout something in a loud high voice, because you are frightened or angry: *His mother screamed out, "Run! Run for your life!"* | *"You bastard, Hayman," Manville screamed out to the empty, darkened streets.*

S

scream out in terror/pain *Everywhere there were people running about, screaming out in terror.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cry out**

scream out at

scream out at | *sb*

if something screams out at you, it is very noticeably ugly or wrong – use this about colours that are too bright or very bad mistakes or faults: *The bathroom tiles are a really horrible colour – whenever I go in there they just scream out at me.*

SCREEN

screened, screened, screening

screen off

1 **screen off** | *sth*   **screen** | *sth* | **off**

to separate part of a room from the rest of the room by using a curtain or wall that can be moved: *An area at the far end of the hall had been screened off as a waiting-room.*

+ with/by *The prayer room was screened off from the rest of the church by heavy velvet curtains.*

* SIMILAR TO: **partition off, curtain off**

2 **screen off** | *sth*   **screen** | *sth* | **off**

to put something such as trees, buildings, or a wall in front of an area so that it cannot be seen

+ with/by *The end section of the garden was screened off by a row of fir trees.*

screen out

1 **screen out** | *sth*   **screen** | *sth* | **out**

to use tests and other methods to prevent unsuitable people from joining a company or organization: *Extensive inquiries were made to screen out job applicants with criminal records.* | *Testing and the use of questionnaires screen out high-risk blood donors who may have been infected with malaria or the HIV virus.*

2 **screen out** | *sth*   **screen** | *sth* | **out**

to prevent harmful or unwanted light, gas, sound etc from entering somewhere: *Sun lotions protect your skin by screening out dangerous ultraviolet rays from the sun.* | *Teletype machines could be heard in the studio, so efforts were made to screen out this noise.*

* SIMILAR TO: **filter out**

SCREW

screwed, screwed, screwing

screw around

1 **screw around**

AmE spoken informal to spend time doing silly things: *The guys in the back of the class would always screw around and learn nothing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess around** *informal*

2 **screw** | *sb* | **around**

spoken especially AmE to cause trouble or problems for someone, especially by changing your mind a lot or preventing them from getting what they want: *They really screwed us around – every day there was a new set of rules and regulations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around** *informal*, **piss about/around** *BrE informal*

3 **screw around**

spoken informal to have sex with a lot of different people. This is a rude expression and some people are offended by it: *Axel's girlfriend Doro thought he had been screwing around.*

+ with *My father was screwing around with other women, and Mum found out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sleep around** *informal*, **cat around** *AmE old-fashioned informal*

screw around with

screw around with | *sth*

AmE spoken informal to make unnecessary changes that affect something in an annoying way and cause problems: *The last time he'd screwed around with Helen's rent, there'd been a fight.* | *All the tax people care about is screwing around with small businesses like mine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around with** *informal*, **mess with** *informal*

screw out of

screw | *sth* | **out of** | *sb*

informal to force someone to give you money or information: *landowners who screwed all they could out of the local peasants*

screw over

screw | *sb* | **over**   **screw over** | *sb*

AmE spoken informal to deceive someone, especially in order to get money from them dishonestly, or to cause someone a lot of problems: *My last company really screwed me over.* | *No wonder workers feel sore when their own unions are screwing them over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rip off** *informal*

screw up

1 **screw** *sb* **up**

spoken informal if a bad experience screws you up, it makes you feel unhappy, anxious, and confused for a long period of time: *It really screwed her up when her mother died.* | *I used to do a lot of drugs, and they really screwed me up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **fuck up** *taboo*

screwed-up ADJ
a screwed-up rich kid who got himself expelled from boarding school | *The guy's really screwed-up. He had a terrible time when he was a kid.*

2 **screw up** | **screw up** *sth* | **screw** *sth* **up**

spoken informal to make a mistake or to spoil something: *Somebody screwed up, and it got delivered to the wrong house.* | *You've really screwed up this time. The boss is furious.* | *How can anyone support a government that's screwing up the economy, as this one is?* | *Why did you let Slater handle the deal? I knew he'd screw things up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **foul up** *informal*

screw-up N [C]
a mistake that spoils arrangements: *There'd been a screw-up in plane reservations.*

3 **screw up your eyes/face, screw your eyes/face up**

to make your eyes narrower or the muscles in your face tighter: *Miss Jarman screwed up her face in disgust. "I can't abide that man – there's something devious about him."* | *He rested his arms on the railing and looked out over Central Park, his eyes screwed up against the sun.*

4 **screw up** *sth* | **screw** *sth* **up**

BrE if you screw up a piece of paper, you twist and crush it with your hands making it into a small round shape: *Vida screwed up the letter and threw it into the trash.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **crumple up**

SCRIBBLE
scribbled, scribbled, scribbling

scribble down

scribble down *sth* | **scribble** *sth* **down**

to write something quickly in an untidy way: *I scribbled down his phone number and promised to call him.* | *By age 9 Carpenter was scribbling down poems and playing the guitar.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jot down**

SCRIMP
scrimped, scrimped, scrimping

scrimp on

scrimp on *sth*

to spend very little money for something or buy something that is cheap and of bad quality: *Builders seem to scrimp on windows to keep costs down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **skimp on**

SCROUNGE
scrounged, scrounged, scrounging

scrounge up

scrounge *sth* **up** | **scrounge up** *sth*

AmE to collect the money or things that you need to do something, or find someone who can help you to do it, especially when this is difficult: *The students have to scrounge up relatives who will give them a room.* | *I'll see if I can scrounge up some old clothes for the garage sale.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **scare up** *AmE informal*

S

SCRUB
scrubbed, scrubbed, scrubbing

scrub out

scrub out *sth* | **scrub** *sth* **out**

to clean the inside of a place or object thoroughly, using a brush or similar cleaning tool: *It's your turn to scrub out the bathtub.* | *Tom scrubbed the bucket out and placed it on the rack to dry.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **clean out**

scrub up

scrub up

if a doctor or nurse scrubs up, they wash their arms and hands before doing a medical operation: *Dr. Hannon, you should probably scrub up now for your one o'clock patient.*

SCRUNCH
scrunched, scrunched, scrunching

scrunch up

1 **scrunch up** *sth* | **scrunch** *sth* **up**

to twist or crush something into a small shape: *I scrunched up the letter I was writing and started over.* | *Don't scrunch up my shirt like that. It'll get wrinkled.*

2 **scrunch up** *sth* | **scrunch** *sth* **up**

to twist your face, eyes, nose etc into a funny shape in order to show how you are feeling: *Matt scrunched up his face and shook his*

head in disgust. | *"What's that terrible smell?" Ellen asked, scrunching up her nose.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw up**

3 **scrunch up**

AmE informal if people scrunch up, they sit or stand very close to each other: *Scrunch up, please! More people need to get on the bus.* | *We all scrunched up on the couch to watch the Super Bowl.*

SEAL

sealed, sealed, sealing

seal in

seal in *sth* **seal** *sth* **in**

to stop something from leaving the thing it is contained in: *Seal in the juices by frying the meat first.* | *The cream seals in moisture, and protects your skin from harmful UV rays.*

seal off

1 **seal off** *sth* **seal** *sth* **off**

to stop people from entering a particular area or building, especially because it is dangerous: *Police sealed off flooded areas so rescue workers could search for survivors.* | *The East Germans built the Berlin Wall to seal off the border.* | *The bank was immediately sealed off as experts tried to negotiate with the gunman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cordon off, close off**

2 **seal** *sb* **off**

to separate someone from something, especially something they would usually be involved in: *For many years, China intentionally sealed itself off from the world economy.* | *Albanians were sealed off from the world for 50 years by its Communist government*

* SIMILAR TO: **isolate**

seal up

seal up *sth* **seal** *sth* **up**

to fasten or block something so that nothing can get in or out: *Grandpa sealed up the cellar doorway with bricks.* | *I packed the vase into a polystyrene box, and sealed it up with Sellotape.*

SEARCH

searched, searched, searching

search for

search for *sth* **search** *sth* **for** *sth*

to try to find a solution to a problem or an explanation for something: *The money will be used to search for a cure for cancer.* | *Police searched the apartment for clues to the murder.*

* SIMILAR TO: **seek**

search out

search out *sth/sb* **search** *sth/sb* **out**

to spend a long time looking someone or something before finding them: *NATO pilots were ordered to search out heavy weapons and destroy them.* | *At eighteen I decided it was time to search out my biological mother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **locate** *formal*

search through

search through *sth*

to look at several things, or the containers that hold these things, because you want to find something in particular: *He's searched through all his papers but still can't find the receipt.* | *Police patrolled the Bogota airport and searched through journalists' bags.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look through**

SECOND

seconded, seconded, seconding

be seconded to

be seconded to *sth*

BrE to be sent to do a different job for a short time, especially in another part of a company or organization: *Jill's been seconded to the marketing department while David's away.*

SECTION

sectioned, sectioned, sectioning

section off

section off *sth* **section** *sth* **off**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to divide an area into parts, especially by putting something between the parts: *They persuaded the council to section off some land at the back, so that tenants could grow their own vegetables.* | *In 1990 Blaine sectioned off parts of the historic mansion and rented them as private flats.*

SEE

saw, saw, seeing

see about

1 **see about** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to find out about something or make arrangements to do something: *"Did you see about that job today?" Bill's mother asked.*

see about doing sth *I went over to the police station to see about getting Marty out of jail, but he had already been released.*

2 **I'll/we'll have to see about that** *spoken*

used to tell someone that you do not know if something will be possible: *"Mom, can I have a car for my birthday?" "We'll have to see about that. I'll have to talk to your father." | I can't promise, but I might be able to lend you a little money. I'll have to wait and see about that.*

3 **we'll see about that** *spoken*

used to say that you intend to stop someone from doing something that they are planning to do: *You're dropping out of school? Well, we'll see about that!*

see around/round

see around/round *sth*

BrE to visit a place and walk around looking at it: *Would you like to see around the old castle before dinner?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look around**

see in

1 **see** *sth* **in** *sb/sth*

to notice a particular quality in someone or something that makes you like them: *What did you ever see in that car? You should have sold it years ago. | Peter saw a combination of intelligence and humour in Kate that he had never found in anyone else.*

2 **I don't know what** *sb* **sees in** *sb/sth*

spoken use this to say that you do not understand why someone likes someone or something: *He just keeps hurting you. I don't know what you see in him, anyway. | I have no idea what he sees in Rachel, but he seems to adore her.*

3 **see** *sb* **in**   **see in** *sb*

to show a visitor the way to enter a building, office etc by walking there with them: *My secretary will see you in. | Please see the guests in when they arrive.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **show in/into**

● OPPOSITE: **see out**

4 **see in the new year**

to celebrate the beginning of a new year: *We were late for the ball, and ended up seeing in the new year on a bus.*

see into

see *sb* **into** *sth*

to show a visitor the way to enter a building, office etc by walking there with them: *Clara, could you please see Kevin into my office?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **see in, show in/into**

● OPPOSITE: **see out**

see off

1 **see** *sb* **off**

to go to the airport, train station etc to say goodbye to someone who is leaving: *Carlo and I saw him off at the 34th Street bus station. | My best friend Judy came to the airport to see me off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wave off, say goodbye to sb**

2 **see** *sb* **off**   **see** *sb* **off** *sth*

to chase someone away or to make someone leave a place: *Grandpa saw the hunters off our property. | If you do not leave immediately, sir, I will have the security guards see you off.*

3 **see off** *sb/sth*   **see** *sb/sth* **off**

BrE to defeat an opponent in a game, or to successfully defend yourself against someone who is attacking you in a fight or battle: *Newcastle United were seen off 1–0 by Liverpool. | The British saw the French off at the battle of Trafalgar.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **defeat**

4 **see off** *sb/sth*   **see** *sb/sth* **off**

BrE informal to kill someone: *He realizes that the men have been hired to see him off, and so he poisons them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **kill, do away with** *informal*

S

see out

1 **see** *sb* **out**

to show a visitor the way to leave by walking there with them: *I'll see you out. This way, please. | Klein shook Carson's hand and saw him out.*

I'll see myself out *spoken* (=used to tell someone they do not have to come to the door with you) *There's no need to come downstairs – I'll see myself out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **show out**

● OPPOSITE: **see in/into, show in/into**

2 **see** *sth* **out**

to continue to do something until it finishes, even if it is difficult or you do not like doing it: *Just see it out. There's only 4 weeks until the end of the course. | My job is terrible, but I'm going to see it out until the end of the year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **see through, stick out**

see over/round

see over/round *sth*

BrE to examine a building, especially when you are considering buying it: *We saw round dozens of houses before we found one we wanted to buy.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look round** *BrE*

see through

1 **see through** *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

if you see through someone or what they are saying, you realize that they are trying to influence you or deceive you: *Eventually I saw through her lies and ended the relationship. | Can't you see through him? He's just making excuses.*

2 **see** *sth* **through**

to continue to do something until it finishes, even if it is difficult or you do not like doing it: *It's a difficult job, but I'm going to see it through.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see out**

3 **see** *sb* **through** | **see** *sb* **through** *sth*

to help someone during a difficult time in their life: *My religious faith is the only thing that saw me through my divorce. | Times were hard, but Olivia's determination saw her through.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get through**

4 **see** *sb* **through** | **see** *sb* **through** *sth*

if food or money sees you through, you have enough to last until you get some more: *The harvest was good, and the people had enough food to see them through the winter. | Can I borrow $30? That should be enough to see me through until payday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lost**

S

see to

1 **see to** *sth*

to deal with something or make sure it happens: *"These papers need filing." "Don't worry, I'll see to that." | Our uncle took care of us and saw to our education. | You don't need to do anything – it's all been seen to already.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deal with, attend to** *formal*

2 **see to** *sb*

to help someone or serve someone in a shop: *"Can I help you?" "It's all right, I'm being seen to."*

3 **have** *sth* **seen to** | **get** *sth* **seen to**

to have a wound or injury treated by a nurse or doctor: *That looks like a nasty cut – you should get it seen to.*

SEEK

sought, sought, seeking

seek out

seek out *sth* | **seek** *sth* **out**

formal to try to find someone or something: *Weinstein advised his son to seek out employment in a large law firm. | The Navy plans to seek out help from experts who can suggest better ways to manage their ships.*

* SIMILAR TO: **seek**

SEEP

seeped, seeped, seeping

seep away

seep away

if a particular feeling or quality seeps away, it gradually disappears: *After about a minute, someone spoke, and the tension in the room began to seep away. | Two years later, the President watched as his power and authority seeped away.*

SEGUE

segued, segued, segueing

segue into

segue into *sth*

especially AmE if one thing segues into another, it leads into it easily, usually because they are connected or similar: *The conversation segued into speculation about Oregon's chances in the Rose Bowl. | Fashion segued from a simple, minimalist style into a softer, more feminine mood.*

SEIZE

seized, seized, seizing

seize on/upon

● **Seize upon** is more formal than **seize on** and is mostly used in writing.

seize on *sth*

to be very interested in an idea, opportunity, or what someone says because you can use it to get an advantage for yourself: *Democratic leaders seized on the opportunity to portray the president as indecisive. | The press seized on the story, and exaggerated it out of all proportion. | Tobacco companies have seized upon the free speech issue to defend their advertising campaigns.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pounce on/upon, leap on/upon**

seize up

1 **seize up**

if an engine or part of a machine seizes up, its moving parts stop working properly and can no longer move: *"The engine seized up," the mechanic said. "When did you last put oil in it?"*

2 **seize up**

BrE if a part of your body seizes up, it becomes very stiff and painful and you cannot move it: *His arms started seizing up in the last 10 metres of the race.*

seize upon

SEE **seize on**

SELL

sold, sold, selling

sell off

1 **sell off** *sth* **sell** *sth* **off**

to sell something cheaply because you no longer want or need it, or because you need money: *Mason had to sell off some stock to make a deposit on the house.* | *We sold off most of Grandma's things after she died.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sell**

2 **sell off** *sth* **sell** *sth* **off**

to sell all or part of an industry or company: *The company plans to sell off its budget hotels and concentrate on upgrading its restaurants.* | *Britain is now selling off its railways and nuclear power stations.*

sell-off N [C]
when all or part of an industry or company is sold: *The stock market was hurt by a sell-off in high technology shares.*

sell on

1 **be sold on** *sth*

to like or support something, especially an idea or plan: *Edouard Balladur, the finance minister, was already sold on the tax-cut policy.* | *The principal of Bonham High impressed her so much that she was sold on the school.*

2 **sell on** *sth* **sell** *sth* **on**

BrE to sell something to another person soon after you have bought it: *She buys old houses, redecorates them, and sells them on at a profit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sell**

sell out

1 **sell out**

if a shop sells out of something, it has no more of that particular thing left to sell

+ of *Most music stores have already sold out of Ice Cube's new rap album.*

be sold out (=a shop has sold out of something) *The bakery is usually sold out of my favourite cake within two hours.*

2 **sell out**

if a supply of something sells out, all of it has been sold and there is no more of it left to buy: *Tickets for the baseball game sold out in just five hours.*

be sold out (=something has sold out) *Copies of Don DeLillo's new book are sold out at Border's Bookstore.*

3 **sell out**

if an event, performance, concert etc sells out, all the tickets have been sold and there are no more left to buy: *The Napa Valley Wine Auction sells out quickly.*

be sold out (=an event, performance, concert etc has sold out) *The Bellarmine College fashion show is sold out.*

sell-out N [C]
an event, performance, concert etc for which all the tickets have been sold: *The concert's sponsors are hoping for a sell-out.*

sell-out ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
a sell-out concert, performance etc is one for which all the tickets have been sold: *Metallica's sell-out tour of the US*

4 **sell out**

to do something that is against your beliefs or principles in order to get power, money etc: *Mitch sold out, trading a lot of dreams for a bigger paycheck.*

sell-out N [C]
when you do something that is against your beliefs or principles because you want more money, power etc: *Some authors think writing cheap romance novels is a sell-out.*

5 **sell** *sb* **out** **sell out** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to not do what you promised to do for someone, or to help someone else instead of them: *We believe that American workers are being sold out in foreign trade deals.*

sell-out N [C]
when you do not do what you promised to do for someone, or when you help someone else instead of them: *The senator was accused of being a sell-out for not supporting minorities in congress.*

6 **sell out**

to sell your business or your share of a business: *After four years, Glenn sold out to his sister, who continued to operate the restaurant alone.* | *Mr. Urbanek founded Randex Inc. in 1969 and later sold out to Perkin-Elmer.*

sell up

sell up **sell up** *sth* **sell** *sth* **up**

BrE to sell your house or business so that you can go somewhere else or do something else: *Rosa wanted Mum to sell up and go and live in Rome.*

SEND

sent, sent, sending

send away

1 **send away**

to send a letter to a company or organization asking them to send something to you

+ for *Tamara sent away for information after reading a newspaper article on the National Teacher Corps.* | *My coach recommended many years ago that I send away for the Charles Atlas exercise manual.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

S

2 **send** *sb* **away** | **send away** *sb*

to ask or tell someone to leave a place, or to arrange for them to go somewhere: *Send the kids away so we can talk privately.* | *I will always be thankful that my parents sent me away to college.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **send off**

send back

send *sth* **back** | **send back** *sth*

to return something, usually by mail, to the company or shop where it came from because you do not like or need it, or because it is broken: *I think I'll send the sweater back. It just doesn't fit right.* | *Turner sent back the ring to the jeweler to replace the missing stones.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **return**

send down

1 **send down** *sth* | **send** *sth* **down**

to make something lose value: *Concern over the U.S. economy sent the dollar down sharply.* | *Weaker demand and falling prices could send chemical profits down by more than 50 percent.*

2 **send** *sb* **down**

BrE informal to put someone in prison: *He was found guilty of armed robbery and sent down for six years.*

3 **be sent down**

BrE old-fashioned to be made to leave a university because of bad behaviour: *My brother was sent down from Oxford for smoking pot.*

send for

1 **send for** *sb*

to ask or tell someone to come to you by sending them a message: *Elise's mother became worried about her cough and sent for the doctor.* | *One by one, Estrada sent for her children back in Mexico.*

send for help (=ask someone to go and find someone else, such as a doctor or the police, who can help you when you are in trouble) *Quick – someone send for help!*

2 **send for** *sth*

to ask or order that something be brought or sent to you: *I'll send for the rest of my furniture when I get there.* | *Send for a free state travel guide to plan your next vacation.*

send in

1 **send in** *sth* | **send** *sth* **in**

to send something, usually by mail, to a place where it can be dealt with: *Millions of people have sent in donations to help victims of Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua.* | *Send in your payment by the 5th of June or your insurance policy will be canceled.*

2 **send in** *sb* | **send** *sb* **in**

to send soldiers, police etc somewhere to deal with a dangerous situation: *Police were sent in to break up the fight between football fans.* | *South Africa sent in troops and blocked the overthrow of the government by a rebel army.*

● OPPOSITE: **pull out, withdraw**

3 **send** *sb* **in** | **send in** *sb*

to ask or tell someone to enter a room: *"Kelly is waiting, Mr Nelson." "Send her in."* | *Send in the jurors now, please.*

send off

1 **send off** *sth* | **send** *sth* **off**

to send something somewhere by mail: *What should I do after sending off my resume?* | *Joe wrote poetry and sent it off regularly to The New Yorker.*

2 **send off**

to send a letter to a company or organization asking them to mail something to you

+ for *Laura sent off for the catalogue.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **send away**

3 **send** *sb* **off** | **send off** *sb*

to ask or tell someone to leave a place, or to arrange for them to go somewhere: *Armand's father sent him off at age 10 to live with friends in Moscow.* | *Mom always sends me off to the store to buy milk or bread.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **send away**

● COMPARE: **pack off**

send-off N [C]
when people gather together to say goodbye to someone who is leaving: *The rally was intended to provide a memorable send-off for President Bush.*

4 **be sent off**

BrE if a sports player is sent off, they are forced to leave the field because they have broken the rules: *Arsenal had their captain Tony Adams sent off and four other players were booked.*

sending-off N [C]
when a sports player is forced to leave the field because they have broken the rules: *Hampson was given a ten-week ban after his third sending-off this season.*

send on

1 **send** *sth* **on** | **send on** *sth*

to send something you have received to another place so that it can be dealt with: *A chain letter promises good luck if you send it on.* | *The local police investigated and then sent the case on to state officials.*

S

2 **send** *sth* **on** | **send on** *sth*

especially BrE to send someone's letters, messages, possessions etc to their new address from their old address: *My flatmate promised to send on all my post. | Don't worry – I'll send on your boxes as soon as I hear from you.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **forward**

send out

1 **send** *sb/sth* **out** | **send out** *sb/sth*

to make something or someone go from one place to various other places: *Sussman had sent out teams of reporters to interview demonstrators. | Her office sends out publications on organic farming to people all over the country.*

2 **send out** *sth* | **send** *sth* **out**

to broadcast a message or produce sound or light: *The ship sent out a distress call when its engine room caught fire | At 12:07 the pilot sent out a message that the plane was back on course. | The lighthouse sends out a powerful beam that can be seen miles out to sea.*

3 **send out a message/signal/warning etc**

to make people have a particular idea about something by what you say or do: *We don't want to send out the wrong message and make people think we support the use of illegal drugs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **give out**

send out for

send out for *sth*

to telephone a restaurant and ask them to bring food to your home or work: *I usually send out for Chinese food when I work late at the office. | Could we send out for a pizza? I'm too tired to cook tonight.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **order out** *AmE*

send up

1 **send up** *sth/sb* | **send** *sth/sb* **up**

to make something increase in value: *Gasoline supplies were short, sending prices up 16.7 percent. | Lawmakers estimate the new policy would send average medical bills up by about $10 a month.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **increase**

2 **send up** *sb/sth* | **send** *sb/sth* **up**

BrE informal to make someone or something seem silly by copying them in a funny way: *Harry Enfield sends up Tony Blair brilliantly in his new comedy series. | Stallone seems to spend most of the film sending himself up.*

send-up N [C]
a book, film etc that shows how silly someone or something is by copying them in a funny way: *George Hamilton's best-known film is his Dracula send-up, 'Love at First Bite'.*

SEPARATE

separated, separated, separating

separate off

1 **separate off** *sth* | **separate** *sth* **off**

to separate part of something from the rest of it: *The kitchen area is separated off by a wooden partition.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **divide off, partition off**

2 **separate off** *sb/sth* | **separate** *sb/sth* **off**

BrE to remove someone or something from a group of people or things: *Children with disabilities should not simply be separated off – their educational needs should be considered individually.*

+ from *Infected cows have to be separated off from the herd.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **isolate**

separate out

1 **separate out** *sb/sth*
separate *sb/sth* **out**

to divide a group or people or things into smaller groups: *In New York, householders are required by law to separate out different types of waste for recycling.*

+ into *BrE Most schools separate their pupils out into different groups, according to their ability.*

2 **separate out** *sth* | **separate** *sth* **out**

to remove something from other things: *Each load of potatoes passes through a machine that separates out stones and lumps of earth.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **remove**

SERVE

served, served, serving

serve as/for

serve as/for *sth*

to be used instead of something when nothing more suitable is available: *There was an upturned box in the middle of the room that served as a table. | The prisoners slept on wooden benches, and a hole in the floor served for a toilet.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **do as/for**

serve on

1 **serve on** *sth*

if you serve on a committee or council, you are a member of it: *She serves on the board of the Colorado Women's Economic Development Council. | Alaman served on several financial committees, and is often called upon to give advice.*

2 | **serve** *sth* **on** *sb* |

to officially give or send someone a written order to appear in a court of law: *A court order had already been served on the debtor.* | *On Sunday morning federal agents tried to serve arrest warrants on Koresh for firearms offences.*

serve out

1 | **serve out** *sth* | | **serve** *sth* **out** |

to continue doing something, until the end of a fixed period of time, especially the period of being a leader or being in prison: *The Hong Kong authorities many allow Stuchiner to serve out the remainder of his 10 year prison sentence in the US.* | *Many people believed that Roosevelt was too ill to serve out his four-year term as President.*

2 | **serve out** *sth* | | **serve** *sth* **out** |

BrE to put food onto plates so that people can eat it: *We all sat round the table, and Patsy served out the stew.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dish out**

S

serve up

1 | **serve up** *sth* | | **serve** *sth* **up** |

if a restaurant serves up a particular type of food, it offers that food to its customers – used especially in newspapers and books about restaurants: *Cafe Miranda serves up a wide range of seafood dishes, with a Mediterranean style flavor.*

2 | **serve up** *sth* | | **serve** *sth* **up** |

to put food onto plates so that people can eat it: *Do you want me to serve up the vegetables?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dish up, dish out**

3 | **serve up** *sth* |

to provide something as entertainment: *a new TV channel serving up 24 hour sports coverage* | *newspapers that serve up a daily diet of gossip, murder, and human suffering*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **provide, dish up** *informal*

SET

set, set, setting

set about

1 | **set about** *sth* | NOT PASSIVE

to start doing something, especially something that needs a lot of time and effort

set about doing sth *They settled in the United States after the war and quietly set about rebuilding their lives, putting the past behind them.*

set about sth *Once the house was built, he set about the task of decorating the interior.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **start**

2 | **set about** *sth* | NOT PASSIVE

especially BrE to start dealing with something in a particular way

set about doing sth *It's a really good idea, but it's difficult to know how to set about doing it.*

set about sth *How do you set about it? Do you sit down with a blank sheet of paper and think "I'm going to write a poem about spring?"*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go about**

3 | **set about** *sb* |

especially literary to attack someone by hitting or kicking them: *Two men leaped out of the shadows and set about him with baseball bats.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **attack, lay into** *informal*

set against

1 | **set** *sth* **against** *sth* |

BrE to consider whether the advantages in a situation are greater than the disadvantages: *The recent increase in output has to be set against increased labor costs.* | *The risks seem small when set against the potential benefits of biotechnology.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **weigh against, balance against**

2 | **set** *sth* **against** *sth* |

to compare two amounts, numbers, periods etc: *This £6 million grant seems less impressive when set against the government's £800 million investment programme for the region.*

3 | **be set against** *sth* |

if a film, play, story etc is set against a particular place or period of history, the story takes place in that place or during that period

be set against the background/backdrop of sth *Many of Forester's novels are set against the background of the Napoleonic Wars.* | *Infidelity, ambition, and violence are all part of this drama set against the glamorous backdrop of Beverly Hills society.*

4 | **set against** *sth* | | **set** *sth* **against** *sth* |

to be in front of a particular background, especially in a way that is attractive: *red and orange autumn leaves, set against a clear blue sky* | *a region of rice fields, coconut groves and jungles, set against a horizon of hazy mountains*

set against a background/backdrop *Bold stripes in red and orange are set against a crisp white background.*

5 | **set** *sb* **against** *sb* |

to make someone start a fight or quarrel with another person, especially someone who they had a friendly relationship with before: *The bitter civil war has set brother against brother.* | *Capitalists have a direct interest in*

setting white workers against black and undermining the unity of the working class.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn against**

6 **be (dead) set against** *sth*

to be strongly opposed to something: *What made you change your mind? Last night, you were dead set against the idea. | When I first told my parents that I wanted to be an actor, they were dead set against it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be opposed to**

7 **set** *sth* **against tax**

BrE to make an official record of the amount of money that you have spent in connection with your business, in order to reduce the amount of tax that you have to pay: *Heating and lighting costs can be set against tax.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set off against**

set ahead

set *sth* **ahead**

AmE to change your clock or watch to that it shows a later time: *Don't forget to set your clocks ahead tonight.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put forward** *BrE*

● OPPOSITE: **set back**

set apart

1 **set** *sb/sth* **apart** | **set apart** *sth/sb*

if a quality sets someone or something apart, it makes them seem different and often better than other people or things: *It is humans' ability to think that sets them apart from other animals.*

+ from *What sets Brandy apart from other teenage pop singers is her voice, which has a sophistication beyond her years.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **distinguish**

2 **set apart** *sth* | **set** *sth* **apart**

BrE to keep something for a special purpose and only use it for that purpose: *I try to set a half an hour apart to sit and relax.*

+ for *Traditionally, these days were set apart for prayer and fasting. | This part of the house was set apart for guests to stay in.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

set aside

1 **set aside** *sth* | **set** *sth* **aside**

to keep something, especially time or money, for a special purpose, and only use it for that purpose

+ for *Try to set aside at least an hour each day for learning new vocabulary. | You should have set aside some cash to pay household expenses. | a room that had been set aside for visitors*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put aside**

2 **set aside** *sth* | **set** *sth* **aside**

to decide that you will not be influenced by a particular feeling, belief, or principle, because something else is more important: *Thus Regan sets prejudice aside and thoughtfully explores the idea that all citizens, black and white, have the same moral rights. | It was no good thinking of revenge. Louis knew that he must set all such thoughts aside.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put aside, lay aside**

3 **set aside** *sth* | **set** *sth* **aside**

if a judge or court sets aside a previous legal decision or agreement, they decide that it no longer has any effect: *Mr Justice Rock allowed the appeal and set aside the order of the Divisonal Court.*

4 **set aside** *sth* | **set** *sth* **aside**

technical if a farmer sets aside land, he or she agrees not to grow any crops on it, and accepts a payment from the government for this: *One out of ten farmers set aside land in the rest of Europe, compared to six out of ten in the UK.*

set-aside N [U]
land that a farmer has agreed not to use for growing crops, and for which the farmer receives a payment from the government: *Set-aside schemes have taken land out of production to help reduce food surpluses.*

S

set back

1 **set back** *sth* | **set** *sth* **back**

to delay the progress or development of something: *The Revolution set back the modernization of the country by many years. | The Challenger disaster not only cost the lives of seven astronauts, but also set back the nation's space program for years.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold up, put back, delay**

setback N [C]
something that delays the progress or development of something, or makes a situation worse than it was before: *The peace talks have suffered a series of setbacks.*

2 **be set back**

if a building is set back, it is some distance from the road: *The museum is a cool sandstone building, set back among trees.*

+ from *The Fords lived in an impressive white house, set back from the road and surrounded by woodland.*

3 **set** *sb* **back**

informal to cost someone a lot of money: *That's a nice coat – I bet that set you back.*

set sb back $50, £100 etc *Many of these wines will set you back $15–$20.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **knock back** *BrE informal*

4 **set** *sth* **back**

AmE to change your clock or watch so that is shows an earlier time: *When do you set the clocks back?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put back** *BrE*

● OPPOSITE: **set ahead**

set down

1 **set** *sth* **down** | **set down** *sth*

to put something that you have been holding on a table or on the ground: *The waiter brought over two bowls of noodles and set them down on our table. | He had set down a bag of washing on the floor between his feet.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put down**

2 **set down** *sth* | **set** *sth* **down**

to state how something should be done in an official document: *When Ted hired new people, he sometimes ignored the procedures set down by the company's personnel department. | Countries wishing to join the Economic and Monetary Union must meet the criteria set down in the Maastricht Treaty.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay down**

S

3 **set down** *sth* | **set** *sth* **down**

to write your thoughts or feelings or a description of an event, so that you have a record of them: *I wanted to set my feelings down on paper. | 'Harriet the Spy' is a children's novel about an 11-year-old girl who spies on her parents and neighbors, and sets it all down in her notebook.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put down**

4 **set** *sb* **down** | **set down** *sb*

BrE if the driver of a bus, taxi, or train sets you down somewhere, he or she stops there and lets you get out: *The driver set her down at the station.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drop off** *informal*

set forth

1 **set forth** *sth*

formal to explain ideas, facts, or opinions in a clearly organized way, by writing or speaking: *Rousseau set forth his views on education in his book 'Emile'. | Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland have set forth joint plans to cope with environmental disasters such as oil spills in Arctic waters.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set out**

2 **set forth**

literary to begin a journey: *They were about to set forth on a voyage into the unknown. | At once, Richard set forth for Cyprus, where he defeated Isaac and rescued his sister and bride.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set off, set out**

set in

set in

if the rain, the winter, or a difficult period sets in, it begins and seems likely to continue: *As winter sets in, we can see a worrying increase in the number of young homeless people on our streets. | When the worldwide economic recession set in, many Third World nations faced bankruptcy.*

set off

1 **set off**

to start to go somewhere: *I wanted to set off early to avoid the traffic. | What time did you set off?*

+ **for** *Merl kissed her husband goodbye and set off for work.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set out**

2 **set off** *sth* | **set** *sth* **off**

to make a bomb explode or to make something cause an explosion: *The slightest movement would have set off the device and blown us all sky high. | a bunch of kids messing around in the street and setting off fireworks*

3 **set off** *sth* | **set** *sth* **off**

to make something such as an alarm system start operating, especially when this was not intended: *The wind was so bad it had set off all the car alarms. | Put that cigarette out you idiot – you'll set the smoke detector off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **trigger off, activate**

4 **set off** *sth* | **set** *sth* **off**

to make something start happening, or make people suddenly start doing something: *The earthquake set off landslides, which destroyed several villages, making many people homeless. | Hong Kong's stock market fell sharply, setting off a global financial crisis. | Government plans to make divorce easier has set off a national debate.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **trigger off, spark off**

5 **set off** *sth* | **set** *sth* **off**

if a piece of clothing, colour, or decoration sets something off, it makes it look more attractive, especially because it is a very different colour: *A stylish beige dress set off with a pale blue scarf. | Johnny had movie star features, brown wavy hair and piercing blue eyes set off by his dark complexion.*

6 **set off** *sth* | **set** *sth* **off**

if a type of food sets off another type of food, it makes it taste better when you eat them together, because it has a very different taste or feel in your mouth: *The rich duck liver is set off by toast and a crisp salad with a lemon dressing. | a rare steak nicely set off by spinach sautéed with garlic*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **enhance**

7 **set** *sb* **off**

BrE spoken to make someone start crying, laughing, or talking about something that they often talk about: *Don't mention anything about weddings – you'll only set her off again.* | *Sue started crying, and then that set me off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **start sb off**

set off against

set *sth* **off against** *sth*

BrE to make an official record of the amount of money that you have spent on things connected with your business, in order to reduce the amount of tax that you have to pay: *Heating and lighting costs can be set off against tax.* | *All employers who pay childcare costs can set these off against their liability for corporation tax.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set against, write off**

set on

1 **set** *sb/sth* **on** *sb*

to make people or animals attack someone: *The farmer threatened to set his dogs on us if we didn't get off his land.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sic on** *AmE*

2 SEE **set upon/on**

set out

1 **set out**

to start a journey, especially a long journey: *Columbus set out from Europe to discover a new route for the spice trade from the Orient.*

+ for *In late 1941, he set out for China, guided by a young comrade over the treacherous mountain trails.*

set out on a journey/drive/voyage etc *The next morning, at five o'clock, they set out on the twelve-hour drive north to Lake Tahoe.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set off**

2 **set out to do** *sth*

to start doing something, or making plans to do something, in order to achieve a particular result: *I've achieved what I set out to achieve – I'm ready for a new challenge now.* | *Scientists set out to discover whether high doses of vitamin A can help prevent cancer.* | *Salesmen who deliberately set out to defraud customers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **start out**

outset N [SINGULAR]
the beginning of an event or process

from/at the outset *It was clear from the outset that there were going to be problems.*

3 **set out** *sth* **set** *sth* **out**

to explain ideas, facts, or opinions in a clearly organized way, by writing or speaking: *The guidelines are set out in paragraph 2.* | *In his speech the Prime Minister set out his priorities for the forthcoming term, with the emphasis on investment in education and training.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set forth** *formal*

4 **set out** *sth* **set** *sth* **out**

BrE to put a group of things somewhere, and arrange them so that they can be used or seen easily: *In the market square, traders had set out displays of items for sale, including ceramics and hand woven rugs.* | *On Saturday morning we set out plastic tables and chairs on the patio ready for the party in the afternoon.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay out, put out**

set out on

set out on *sth*

to start something, especially something difficult, important, or new: *From 1900 von Koerber's government set out on a programme of economic and cultural modernization.* | *Nicholson became a spy in 1980 and set out on a career of increasingly dangerous foreign assignments.* | *Charlie set out on a series of unfortunate marriages with very young girls.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **embark on/upon**

set to

1 **set to**

BrE to start doing something eagerly, with a lot of determination and effort: *If we all set to, we can finish the cleaning in half an hour.*

2 **set to**

old-fashioned if two people set to, they start to argue or fight: *Two men on the bus suddenly set to, and the driver had to radio the police.*

set-to N [C]
an argument: *George had angrily quit the group after a set-to with Paul.*

set up

1 **set up** *sth* **set** *sth* **up** **set up**

to start a business or organization

set up sth/set sth up *They want to set up their own import-export business.* | *The Race Relations Board was originally set up in 1965.*

set up/set yourself up (=start your own business) *He borrowed $5000 and set himself up in the catering business.*

+ as *John used the money he inherited to set up as a fashion designer.*

set up in business (=start your own business) *a scheme that helps young people who want to set up in business*

set up on your own (=leave the company you work for to start your own business) *Carol used to work for a law firm, till she decided to leave and set up on her own.*

set up shop *informal* (=start a business in a particular place) *In 1976 Steve Jobs and Stephen Wozniak set up shop in Steve's parents' garage, and worked on a design for a new computer.*

2 **set up** *sth* | **set** *sth* **up**

to make the arrangements that are necessary for something to happen: *I'll get my secretary to set up a meeting.* | *The company has set up a website to promote its products.* | *A telephone information line has been set up to provide citizens with information on water quality.* | *Police have set up an investigation into a series of attacks on gay men.*

set-up N [C]
the way that things are done or organized in a place or organization: *"How's your new job going?" "OK, but they have a totally different set-up there, and I'm still getting used to it."*

S

3 **set up** | **set up** *sth* | **set** *sth* **up**

to prepare equipment so that it is ready to be used: *Have you set the microphone up?* | *I might need some help setting up my new computer.* | *The next band was already setting up on the other stage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get ready**

set-up N [C]
a piece of equipment consisting of several parts: *Imagine you have $2000 to spend on a new hi-fi set-up.*

4 **set up home/house**

especially BrE to start living in your own home and buy furniture for it, especially when you leave your parents' home to live with a wife, husband, or lover: *There's a shortage of affordable housing for young people wanting to set up home.*

5 **set up** *sth* | **set** *sth* **up**

to place or build something somewhere: *The police have set up roadblocks around the city.* | *Every year they get a huge Christmas tree from Norway and set it up in the main square.* | *Napoleon set up a monument to honour his great army.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put up**

6 **set** *sb* **up**

informal to deliberately make people think that someone has done something wrong or illegal when they have not: *The four suspects claimed they had been set up by the police.* | *Protesting his innocence, Cahill still insists that someone set him up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **frame, stitch up** *informal*

set-up N [C]
a dishonest plan that makes people think someone has done something wrong when they have not: *Was Walker the real murderer, or was he the victim of an elaborate set-up?*

7 **set** *sb* **up**

to give someone the money they need to start a business

+ with *Her parents set her up with her own bar in St John's Wood.*

set sb up in business *After Pete graduated, his father set him up in business.*

8 **set** *sb* **up for life**

to provide someone with enough money to live well without having to work for the rest of their life: *Ray grinned under his moustache "If this deal goes through, Marge, we'll be set up for life."*

9 **set** *sb* **up**

informal to arrange for two people to meet because you think they will be attracted to each other: *"How did you meet your husband?" "A friend set us up."*

+ with *Marty tried to set her up with a guy from work.*

10 **set** *sb* **up**

BrE if food or sleep sets you up, it makes you feel healthy and full of energy

set sb up for the day *A good breakfast will set you up for the day.*

11 **set up a commotion/din/racket etc**

BrE to start making a loud, unpleasant noise: *Every morning the birds set up a deafening racket and woke the whole neighborhood.* | *The party guests set up a steady din that got gradually louder as the night wore on.*

12 **set up** *sb/sth*

to pass the ball to another player so that they can get a goal or a point

set up a goal *Sam Reed scored twice and then set up the third goal for Tom Cox.*

set up as

set yourself up as *sth*

to deliberately make people believe that you are important and that you have the authority or the skill to do something very well, especially when this is not true: *Politicians set themselves up as moral authorities, with the power to tell us how we should live our lives.* | *Manucci set himself up as a faith healer, and used tricks and deception to con money out of sick and desperate people.*

be set upon/on

set upon/on *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

to suddenly attack someone: *He was set upon by a gang of hooligans as he left the bar.* | *A respectably-dressed young girl was set upon by four factory girls and unmercifully beaten.* | *A group of youths wearing leather jackets set upon him and pushed him to the ground.*

SETTLE

settled, settled, settling

settle back

settle back

to lean back in bed or in a chair, and relax and enjoy yourself: *She reached for her wine glass and settled back against the pillows, lighting a cigarette.* | *Milton settled back in his armchair and put his feet up on a footstool.* | *Jackie switched on the TV and settled back to enjoy the film.*

settle down

1 **settle down** **settle** *sb* **down**

to stop talking or behaving in a worried or excited way, and to become calm and quiet, or to make someone do this: *Shh! Settle down please! Now turn to page 57 in your books.* | *When Kyle was a baby we used to take him for long rides in the car to settle him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down**

2 **settle down**

to start living in a place with the intention of staying there, often with a husband or wife, and especially after you have travelled a lot or had other lovers: *It's about time he settled down and got married.* | *I don't feel ready to settle down and commit myself to a relationship yet.*

3 **settle down**

to start to feel happy and confident in a new situation, job, or school: *It took him a while to get used to his new school, but I think he's settled down now.* | *Has Vanessa settled down in her new job?*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle in**

4 **settle down**

to start giving all of your attention to a job or activity

settle down to sth *I sorted out my mail and then settled down to some serious work.*

settle down to do sth *John settled down to write her a letter explaining his behaviour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get down to**

5 **settle down**

if a situation settles down, it becomes calmer and you are less busy and less worried: *Things were really hectic during the sales, but it's settled down now.* | *"I have missed seeing you," he wrote. "When things settle down, I'll call you."*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, quieten down**

settle for

settle for *sth*

to accept something even though it is not the best, or not what you really want: *They want $2500 for it, but they might settle for $2000.* | *They haven't got any champagne, darling – we'll have to settle for white wine.* | *I'd like to get good grades, but I'll settle for a pass.*

not settle for (anything) less (=refuse to accept something than is not the best or is less than you want) *Olivia wanted an apartment in the most fashionable part of Paris. She wouldn't settle for anything less.*

* SIMILAR TO: **to accept**

settle in/into

settle in **settle into** *sth*

to begin to feel happy and relaxed in a new situation, home, job, or school: *How do you like your new home? Are you settling in OK?* | *The new administrator, Chris Keech, is settling into the job after spending a week working alongside his predecessor.*

be settled in *We'll wait till you're properly settled in before we come and visit you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle down**

settle into

settle into *sth*

to get used to a particular way of living or doing things because you know it will continue for a long time: *We soon settled into a daily routine of cleaning weapons, listening to the radio, and trying to catch up on sleep.*

settle on

settle *sth* **on** *sb*

BrE formal to make a formal arrangement to give money, land, or property to someone: *She settled a small yearly sum on each of her children.*

settle on/upon

● **Settle upon** is more formal than **settle on** and is used mostly in writing.

settle on/upon *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

if two or more people settle on something they agree to choose it, especially after discussing all the possibilities and thinking about it for a long time: *They haven't settled on a name for the baby yet.* | *They considered*

S

several sites for the new racquetball club, and eventually settled on one near Harford Mall.

* SIMILAR TO: **decide on**

settle up

settle up

to pay what you owe on an account or bill: *We settled up and checked out of the hotel.*

+ with *I'll settle up with the bartender and then we can leave.*

settle upon

SEE **settle on/upon**

SEW

sewed, sewed, sewing

sew up

1 **sew up** *sth* **sew** *sth* **up**

to close or repair something by sewing it: *There's a hole in my coat that needs sewing up. | The nurse cleaned out the wound then sewed it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stitch up**

2 **sew up** *sth* **sew** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to complete a business agreement or plan and get the result you want: *Bob reckons the deal should be sewn up within a week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stitch up**

3 **have** *sth* **(all) sewn up**

informal to have got control of a situation, and be sure to win or gain something: *It seems like the Democrats have the election all sewn up.*

SHACK

shacked, shacked, shacking

shack up

shack up

informal to start living with someone that you have sex with but are not married to – used especially to show disapproval

+ with *Michael shacked up with his new girlfriend as soon as he divorced his wife.*

be shacked up *Once they were shacked up, all they did was fight.*

+ together *The last thing I heard, she and her lover-boy were shacked up together somewhere in Glasgow.*

SHACKLE

shackled, shackled, shackling

shackle with

shackle *sb* **with** *sth*

to put limits on someone's freedom, in a way that is unreasonable and causes problems for them: *Mr Mellor, unlike the Prime Minister, was opposed to shackling the press with privacy laws. | The EU has shackled traders with some of the most restrictive laws imaginable.*

SHADE

shaded, shaded, shading

shade in

shade in *sth* **shade** *sth* **in**

to make part of a drawing or picture darker using a pencil or a darker colour: *She started to shade in an outline of a tree with charcoal.*

shade into

shade (off) into *sth*

if one thing shades into another, there is no clear division between them so that it is impossible to see where one stops and the other starts: *orange shading into yellow | It was a wet, misty day. At the horizon, the grey-blue sea shaded into the grey-blue sky. | National pride often shades into racism.*

* SIMILAR TO: **merge into, blend into**

SHAG

be shagged out

● **Shag** is a rude word, and some people are offended by it.

be shagged out

BrE spoken informal to be extremely tired: *By the time I got home I was completely shagged out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be exhausted, be worn out, be tired out, be shattered** *informal*

SHAKE

shook, shaken, shaking

shake down

1 **shake** *sb* **down**

AmE informal to use force or threats to make someone give you money: *There is something wrong with a system that shakes the public down for more taxes every year.*

shakedown N [C]
when someone gets money from someone else by using threats: *After the thousand dollar shakedown, Ramon couldn't pay up any more.*

2 **shake** *sb/sth* **down** **shake down** *sb/sth*

AmE informal to search a person or place thoroughly: *Lechuga decided to shake down Mexico's 447 prisons after 18 prisoners died.*

3 **shake down**

BrE informal if a group of people shake down in a new situation, they get used to it and

start working effectively together: *I ask our fans to be patient until the team shakes down.*

4 **shake down**

BrE old-fashioned to sleep on the floor, on a seat etc because there is no proper bed for you: *If you miss the last bus, you can always shake down on the floor here.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kip down** *BrE informal*

shakedown N [SINGULAR]
BrE a place prepared for you on a floor, seat etc where you can sleep: *There weren't any beds left so I had to be content with a shakedown in the corridor. | I can't drift off to dreamland on a shakedown settee.*

shake off

shake off *sth* **shake** *sth* **off**

to get rid of an illness or something that is causing you problems or having a bad effect on you: *I've had this flu for weeks – I just can't seem to shake it off. | Melanie Griffith never manages to completely shake off the dumb blonde image, perhaps because of her squeaky little girl voice. | It was 1949, and Europe was still shaking off the horror of World War II.*

shake on

shake on *sth*

to agree on a decision or business agreement by shaking hands (=holding someone's hand and moving it up and down): *"That's a deal," I said, and we shook on it. | Can the two leaders shake on a deal that will bring peace to the Middle East?*

let's shake on it *Carter stood up. "Let's shake on it." He held out his hand.*

shake out

shake out *sth* **shake** *sth* **out**

shake *sth* **out of** *sth*

to shake a cloth, bag, sheet etc, in order to make it smooth or to get rid of small pieces of dust or dirt: *She put the tray on Nicandra's knees and shook out a white napkin. | I went outside and shook the insects out of my sleeping bag.*

shake out of

shake *sb* **out of** *sth*

to force someone to change their mood, so that they stop feeling sad, upset, or lazy, and realize there are things they must deal with: *Her best friend had moved away, and there was no one to help shake Lena out of her depression. | She tried to shake herself out of it, but as soon as she calmed down she began crying again. | "William!" The teacher's angry voice shook him out of his reverie. | If the bombing of a hospital cannot shake this government out of its complacency, what will?*

shake up

1 **shake** *sb* **up** **shake up** *sb*

to give someone a very unpleasant shock, so that they feel very upset and frightened: *Seeing that accident really shook me up. | When we heard the news we were too shaken up and surprised to react immediately.*

2 **shake up** *sth* **shake** *sth* **up**

to make big changes to a company or organization over a short period of time, in order to make it more effective: *A new director was brought in last year to shake things up. | When Albano was sworn in as mayor two weeks ago, he vowed to shake up the police department.*

shake-up N [C]
when big changes are made to a company or organization over a short period of time, in order to make it more effective: *a financial crisis that led to a major management shake-up | a huge shake-up of the education system*

SHAPE

shaped, shaped, shaping

S

shape up

1 **shape up**

informal to make progress and improve: *The new recruits are shaping up nicely. | You'd better shape up, John, or you'll be off the team. | Broad evidence indicates that the California economy is shaping up.*

2 **shape up**

if a situation, activity, or struggle shapes up, it develops: *Events were shaping up worse and faster than I could have expected – I was in danger of losing control of the situation. | A titanic battle is shaping up on the Internet between two computer heavyweights. | Well, Sue, less than a week to go before the show! How's it all shaping up?*

3 **shape up**

to make yourself healthy and physically strong so that your body looks good, by exercising or eating particular foods: *Here are 12 easy exercises to help you shape up for the summer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tone up**

SHARE

shared, shared, sharing

share out

share out *sth* **share** *sth* **out**

BrE to divide something into smaller amounts, and then give an amount to each

person in a group: *Take these cookies and share them out.*

+ between *We've got three pizzas to share out between five people.*

+ among/amongst *The business is obviously very profitable, but the profits are not fairly shared out among those who are helping to generate them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **divide up, divvy up** *informal*

share-out N [C]
when something is shared out between people: *the unequal share-out of education cash in South Africa under apartheid*

SHARPEN

sharpened, sharpened, sharpening

sharpen up

1 **sharpen up** *sth* | **sharpen** *sth* **up**

to improve something so that it reaches the necessary standard or quality: *We need a few more rehearsals to sharpen up the dance routine.*

2 **sharpen up**

to become more skilled and effective and more determined to succeed: *Dobson has sharpened up by training with Olympic sprinter David Grindley.*

3 **sharpen up** *sth* | **sharpen** *sth* **up**

if you sharpen up a picture or photograph, you make it clearer so that all the details can be seen: *By using digital technology we can sharpen up the picture on your television screen.*

SHAVE

shaved, shaved, shaving

shave off

1 **shave off** *sth* | **shave** *sth* **off**

to remove hair from your skin completely by shaving

shave off your hair/beard/moustache *As soon as Dan got his first job, he shaved off his beard and bought a suit and tie.* | *Sigourney Weaver shaved off all her hair to star in the film Aliens III.*

2 **shave** *sth* **off** *sth*

to reduce something by a small amount by making a special effort to do this: *By shopping extremely carefully, I found I was able to shave about 10% off my weekly bill.* | *Carey needed to shave two seconds off his best time to have a chance of qualifying for the Olympics.*

3 **shave off** *sth* | **shave** *sth* **off**

to remove very thin pieces from the surface of something, using a knife or other cutting tool: *Use a knife to shave off very fine rolls of chocolate and scatter them over the cake.*

SHEAR

be shorn of

be shorn of *sth*

formal if a person or thing is shorn of something that they used to have, for example power or a special quality, it has been taken away from them: *The king, shorn of more and more of his powers, had very little idea of what was happening.*

shear off

shear off | **shear off** *sth* | **shear** *sth* **off**

if a part of something made of metal shears off, it breaks away from the rest of it, especially because it has become weak or old: *The left wing of the aeroplane had almost completely sheared off when it hit the ground.*

SHELL

shelled, shelled, shelling

shell out

shell out | **shell out** *sth*

informal to pay or give money for something, especially when you do not want to, or when you think it is too expensive

+ for *We don't want to have to shell out for a Christmas disco again this year – it costs a fortune!*

+ on *Kids these days shell out £30 or £40 on a computer game without even thinking about it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fork out** *informal*, **cough up** *informal*

SHIFT

shifted, shifted, shifting

shift for

shift for yourself

old-fashioned to look after yourself without any help from other people, especially by making your own meals: *In some families when the mother went to work, children as young as seven or eight were left to shift for themselves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fend for yourself**

SHIN BrE SHINNY AmE

shinned, shinned, shinning BrE
shinnied, shinnied, shinnying AmE

shin down BrE ALSO shinny down AmE

shin/shinny down | *sth*

to quickly climb down something such as a tree or pole by wrapping your arms and legs around it: *The thief must have climbed out of a back window and shinnied down the drainpipe.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **climb (down)**

shin up BrE shinny up AmE

shin/shinny up | *sth*

to quickly climb up something such as a tree or a pole, especially by using your hands and legs to pull and push yourself up: *It was incredible to see the local people shinning up palm trees with no effort at all.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **climb (up)**

SHINE

shone, shone, shining

shine out

1 **shine out**

if a light shines out, it shines very brightly, especially from a distance: *Just at that moment the clouds parted and the sun shone out. | The sitting room door was open and a light was shining out across the stairs.*

2 **shine out**

BrE to be much better at something than others in a very noticeable way: *The overseas division shone out as the group's star performer last year.*

+ from *A few of the children shone out from all the others.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand out**

shine through

shine through | **shine through** *sth*

if a good quality that someone has shines through, it is easy to notice it: *Kindness and humour shone through his letters. | Gary's chess talents shone through at an early age, and he won the World Junior Championship.*

SHINNY

SEE **shin** BrE **shinny** AmE

SHIP

shipped, shipped, shipping

ship in

1 **ship** *sth* **in** | **ship in** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to bring goods or materials to a place in a ship or plane, especially in large quantities: *Many consumer goods such as videotapes and electric shavers are shipped in from abroad.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bring in**

2 **ship** *sb* **in** | **ship in** *sb*

to bring people to a place in order to work there, for example from another country because there are not enough people available in the place already: *Because of the shortage of staff in our schools, teachers had to be shipped in from Europe.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bring in**

ship off

1 **ship** *sb/sth* **off** | **ship off** *sb/sth*

informal to send or take people somewhere, especially without asking them if they want to go: *I was shipped off to school in England at the age of seven, leaving my family behind in Sierra Leone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **send away, pack off**

2 **ship** *sb/sth* **off** | **ship off** *sb/sth*

to send people or goods to a place in a ship: *In 1850 the slaves were sold in Havana, and shipped off to work in sugar plantations.*

ship out

1 **ship** *sth/sb* **out** | **ship out** *sth/sb*

to send goods or people somewhere in a ship or plane, especially in large quantities: *Food and clothing will be shipped out to the disaster area within the next few days.*

2 **ship out**

informal to leave a place: *The men were under orders to ship out early next morning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **leave**

SHOOT

shot, shot, shooting

shoot down

1 **shoot** *sb/sth* **down** | **shoot down** *sb/sth*

to make an enemy plane and the people in it crash to the ground, by firing bullets or weapons at it: *American war planes shot down an Iraqi jet inside the no-fly zone. | In 1983 a Korean airliner was shot down over the Soviet Union after straying near a top secret submarine base.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bring down**

shootdown N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
especially AmE when an enemy plane is made to crash to the ground, by firing bullets or weapons at it: *There will be an international investigation into last weekend's shootdown of the two planes.*

2 | **shoot down** | *sb* | | **shoot** | *sb* | **down** |

to kill or seriously injure someone by shooting them, especially people who cannot defend themselves: *The army were accused of shooting down unarmed demonstrators.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gun down, shoot**

3 | **shoot** | *sth/sb* | **down** | | **shoot down** | *sth/sb* |

informal to say or show that someone's ideas or opinions are wrong or stupid: *America Online shot down rumours of a merger between the two companies.*

shoot sth/sb down in flames (=completely destroy someone's ideas by showing that they are wrong or stupid) *The article was shot down in flames by government scientists.*

shoot for

| **shoot for** | *sth* |

AmE to try to achieve a particular aim or goal: *Coach Bruce Corbett said he is shooting for a winning record this season.*

* SIMILAR TO: **aim (for), try for**

shoot off

1 | **shoot off** |

informal, especially BrE to leave somewhere very quickly or suddenly: *Every time I see him, he looks at his watch and shoots off to a meeting.* | *Jane got on the horse, which immediately shot off at great speed across the field.*

* SIMILAR TO: **speed off, dash off** *informal*, **rush off**

2 | **be shot off** |

if a part of someone's leg, head etc is shot off, it is completely destroyed by a bullet: *One woman had survived the massacre, although her arm had been shot off.*

shoot out

| **shoot it out** |

informal to fight against someone with guns, especially until one person or group is killed or defeated by the other

+ with *The terrorists were trapped in the house, and were forced to shoot it out with the police before being overpowered.*

shoot-out N [C]
a fight between two people or groups who shoot at each other with guns until one of them wins: *At least two people at the prison were killed in a shoot-out with security forces.*

be shot through with

| **be shot through with** | *sth* |

if a piece of writing or music is shot through with a particular feeling or quality, it contains a lot of it: *The stories are short, and shot through with Hurley's dry gentle humour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be filled with**

shoot up

1 | **shoot up** |

to increase very quickly and suddenly: *Some experts think that house prices will shoot up again this year.*

+ to *Odette's weight shot up to fourteen stone after her children were born.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rocket up**

2 | **shoot up** |

if a child shoots up, he or she grows taller very quickly and suddenly: *I can't believe this is Christopher – he's shot up since I last saw him!*

3 | **shoot** | *sth* | **up** | | **shoot up** | *sth* |

to damage a building or injure a person, by shooting them with bullets: *There's nothing for the refugees to return to; their homes have gone, shot up and blown apart.* | *On June 17th Chapman was badly shot up, wounded in the head.*

4 | **shoot up** | | **shoot up** | *sth* |

informal to put harmful illegal drugs into your blood, using a special needle: *Kids as young as ten are shooting up heroin.* | *Junkies used the restroom downstairs for shooting up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jack up** *BrE informal*

SHOP

shopped, shopped, shopping

shop around

| **shop around** |

to try to find the best price, quality, deal etc when you want to buy something or use a service, by going to different shops or companies and comparing what they offer: *You can halve the cost of insuring your home, simply by shopping around.*

+ for *Prices for sporting equipment vary enormously, and it's worth shopping around for the best buy.*

SHORE

shored, shored, shoring

shore up

1 | **shore up** | *sth* | | **shore** | *sth* | **up** |

to support something that is weak or likely

to fail, by doing something that will help to make it stronger: *The administration is considering tax relief to help shore up the US airline industry.* | *Throughout the day the bank sold both dollars and European currency, in an effort to shore up the pound.*

2 **shore** *sth* **up** | **shore up** *sth*

to support a wall or a building with large pieces of wood or metal, in order to stop it from falling down: *The tunnel was in danger of collapsing at any minute, and was shored up with old wooden beams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prop up**

SHOUT

shouted, shouted, shouting

shout down

shout *sb* **down** | **shout down** *sb*

to shout loudly while someone is talking because you want to prevent them from being heard: *Several students stood up to protest, but they were quickly shouted down.* | *Opposition MPs tried to shout him down, but he carried on with his speech.*

shout out

shout out *sth* | **shout** *sth* **out**

shout out

to suddenly shout something or say something in a loud voice: *Someone in the audience shouted out "Get on with it!"* | *Maria could hear people screaming and laughing and shouting out her name.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call out, yell out**

SHOVE

shoved, shoved, shoving

shove around
ALSO **shove about** *BrE*

shove *sb* **around/about**

informal to tell someone what to do in a rude or unpleasant way, without considering what they want: *I left my old job because I was fed up with being shoved around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **push around, boss around**

shove off

1 **shove off!**

spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away, especially when you are annoyed with them or they are disturbing you: *Shove off, Gerry. I don't want you here.*

* SIMILAR TO: **push off!** *BrE spoken informal*, **buzz off** *spoken informal*, **clear off** *spoken informal, especially BrE*

2 **shove off**

informal to leave somewhere: *Apparently the entire team had shoved off for a fortnight's holiday in Bermuda.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leave**

shove up

shove up!

spoken informal used to tell someone to move a little in order to make space for someone else: *If you shove up a bit, we can all get in the back seat.*

* SIMILAR TO: **move up, budge up** *BrE informal*

SHOW

showed, shown, showing

show around
ALSO **show round** *BrE*

show *sb* **around/round** *sth*

show *sb* **around/round**

to go around a place with someone to show them what is interesting or what they need to know: *In the morning the Professor showed us around the university.* | *A representative had arranged to meet us at the house that afternoon and show us round.*

* SIMILAR TO: **show over** *BrE*, **take around**

show in/into

show *sb* **in** | **show** *sb* **into** *sth*

to lead someone who is visiting into a room or a building, especially in order for them to meet someone there: *I waited on the steps for about five minutes before somebody finally opened the door and showed me in.* | *A secretary showed Alison into a large office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see in/into**

● OPPOSITE: **show out**

show off

1 **show off**

to try to make other people admire you, by behaving in a way that you think makes you seem intelligent, skilful, or rich, but in fact is just annoying or silly: *I can't stand the way she shows off in front of the other students.*

+ to *Apparently Nick had been driving much too fast – showing off to the other guys in the car.*

show-off N [C]
informal a person who tries to make other people admire them, by behaving in a way that they think makes them seem clever, skilful, or rich, but in fact is just annoying or silly: *Leman was the youngest of ten children – a show-off and a class clown.*

S

2 **show off** *sth/sb* | **show** *sth/sb* **off**

to show something or someone that you are very proud of to a group of people: *She wanted to show off her new outfit at the party.*

+ to *Chris's friends had never met his girlfriend, and he was looking forward to showing her off to them.*

3 **show off** *sth* | **show** *sth* **off** NOT PASSIVE

if one thing shows off something else, it emphasizes its good qualities and makes it seem even more attractive: *Her jeans were tight-fitting, showing off her tall slim figure.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set off**

show out

show *sb* **out** | **show out** *sb*

to go with someone to the door when they are leaving a room or a building, especially after they have been visiting or meeting another person

+ of *Mr Burrows ended the meeting by asking his secretary to show me out of the office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see out**

● OPPOSITE: **show in**

S

show over

show *sb* **over** *sth* | **show** *sb* **over**

BrE to go around a place with someone who comes to visit it, in order to show them what is interesting or what they need to know: *Lou seemed to enjoy her company, showing her over the nearby castle and taking her for long drives. | If you're interested in the garden I can show you over some time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **show around**

show round

SEE **show around**

show through

show through | **show through** *sth*

if a quality or feeling that someone has shows through, it is noticeable: *The senator replied politely, but his irritation showed through. | Robinson's talent showed through last season when he averaged 27.6 points.*

show up

1 **show up**

informal to arrive, especially at a place where people are expecting you: *We spent half an hour waiting for Martin to show up. | Macari failed to show up for the match.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn up, pitch up** *BrE informal*

2 **show up**

BrE if a problem or fault shows up, it is easy to see or notice: *In the sunlight, the decayed state of the house showed up clearly. | We were told that the bone was definitely broken – it had shown up on the X-ray.*

3 **show up** *sth* | **show** *sth* **up**

BrE to make a problem or fault easy to see or notice: *These results have shown up serious faults in our examination system. | Richards is to have further tests on his injured shoulder, which should show up the extent of the damage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reveal**

4 **show up** *sb* | **show** *sb* **up**

informal to make someone feel embarrassed or ashamed, because of something that you do or say: *You can always rely on your children to show you up in public!*

* SIMILAR TO: **embarrass**

5 **show** *sb/sth* **up** | **show up** *sb/sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to show that someone or something is bad, unpleasant etc, especially when it was not clear before

+ as *By now the administration had lost control, had been shown up as useless.*

be shown up for what it is (=be shown to be something bad, unpleasant etc) *The idea was soon shown up for what it was – a waste of time and money.*

SHOWER

showered, showered, showering

shower on/upon

● **Shower upon** is more formal than **shower on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **shower** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

if you shower praise, honours etc on someone, you praise them a lot or give them a lot of honours: *Last night senior officers showered praise on the young policewoman for her courage. | I didn't think it was a particularly good film, despite all the Oscars and awards that were showered on it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lavish on/upon**

2 **shower** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to give a lot of money or gifts to someone in a very generous way: *At Christmas everyone longs to shower gifts on their family and friends – but where is the money to come from?*

shower with

1 **shower** *sb* **with** *sth*

to give someone a lot of something, especially presents or praise, in order to show

them how pleased, grateful etc you are: *The players will be showered with gifts, like cars and luxury apartments, if they beat England for the first time.* | *The critics showered the film with praise when it first came out.*

2 | **shower** | *sb* | **with** | *sth* |

to throw a lot of something over someone: *The crowds cheered in the streets and showered her with flowers and petals.* | *At that moment the bomb exploded, showering people with glass and debris.*

SHRINK

shrank, shrunk, shrinking

shrink away

1 | **shrink away** |

to move back and away from someone or something, especially because you are frightened or you do not want them to touch you

+ from *"You're disgusting," Nell said to him, shrinking away from him and shivering.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shrink back, shrink from**

2 | **shrink away** |

to try to avoid doing or being involved in something that is unpleasant

+ from *Verity was a shy, nervous girl, who always shrank away from unpleasantness of any sort.*

shrink away from doing sth *Most of the workers shrank away from saying anything that might annoy their boss.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shy away from**

shrink back

| **shrink back** |

to move back and away from something or someone, especially because you are frightened or you do not want them to touch you

+ against *"Well?" the teacher asked in a voice that made all four of her students shrink back against the wall.*

+ into *As the men neared her hiding place, Tilly shrank back into the shadows.*

shrink from

1 | **shrink from** | *sth* | OFTEN NEGATIVE

to feel very unwilling to do something, or to deliberately avoid doing something, especially because it is unpleasant or difficult: *The former Prime Minister never shrank from her duties as leader, even when she was faced with tough opposition.* | *These were men who would not shrink from violence.*

shrink from doing sth *He did not shrink form doing what he thought was right.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shy away from**

2 | **shrink from** | *sb/sth* |

to move back and away from someone or something, especially because you are frightened or you do not want them to touch you: *Maureen felt herself shrinking from him, preparing to run if she had to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shrink away, shrink back**

SHRIVEL

shrivelled, shrivelled, shrivelling
shriveled, shriveled, shriveling AmE

shrivel up

1 | **shrivel up** |

if something or someone shrivels up, they become smaller and their skin becomes covered with lines because it is very dry or old: *The few unpicked apples on the top branches had shriveled up and gone brown.* | *Granny Tring lived in the house next to ours. She was old and shrivelled up, like a walnut.*

2 | **shrivel up** |

to feel extremely embarrassed or frightened by something: *He was one of those men who shrivel up at the thought of their wives going out to work.* | *You'll never guess what my mother said in front of everyone – I just shriveled up inside!*

S

SHROUD

be shrouded in

1 | **be shrouded in mist/clouds/fog/ darkness etc** |

to be covered by mist, clouds etc, and difficult or impossible to see: *It was very early in the morning, and the mountains were still shrouded in mist.*

2 | **be shrouded in mystery/secrecy etc** |

to seem very strange and mysterious, or to be deliberately kept secret: *The origins of Osiris are still shrouded in mystery.* | *For many years, the Rockwell incident has remained shrouded in mystery.* | *The talks between the British government and the terrorists were shrouded in secrecy.*

SHRUG

shrugged, shrugged, shrugging

shrug off

| **shrug off** | *sth* | | **shrug** | *sth* | **off** |

to not worry about something and treat it as unimportant: *Polly tried to shrug off Geoff's remarks, but they had put her in a bad mood for the evening.* | *Many people with the illness fail to recognize the symptoms, or shrug them off as unimportant.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush off, shuck off** AmE *informal*

SHUCK

shucked, shucked, shucking

shuck off

1 **shuck off** *sth* | **shuck** *sth* **off**

AmE informal to take off a piece of clothing in a quick and careless way: *Michael shucked off his coat and hat and went to his room.*

2 **shuck off** *sth* | **shuck** *sth* **off**

AmE informal if you shuck off an idea or feeling, you stop paying attention to it because you do not care about it or do not want to think about it: *I tried to shuck off my worries and have a good time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore, shrug off**

SHUFFLE

shuffled, shuffled, shuffling

shuffle off

shuffle off *sth* | **shuffle** *sth* **off**

to try to avoid dealing with something, especially by giving the responsibility for it to someone else

+ onto *Everyone has a responsibility to their family – you can't just shuffle it off onto other people.*

S

SHUT

shut, shut, shutting

shut away

1 **shut** *sb/sth* **away** | **shut away** *sb/sth*

to put someone or something in a special place so that they are hidden and cannot leave or be taken away: *Should young people of fifteen or sixteen be shut away in ordinary jails when they commit a crime?*

keep sb/sth shut away *Gina was puzzled as to why her father kept the diaries shut away, and never mentioned them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lock away, hide away**

2 **shut yourself away**

to keep away from other people, for example by going to a quiet room or staying at home, especially for long periods: *I often had to shut myself away until two or three in the morning in order to get the work done. | You've got to talk to someone about it – you can't just shut yourself away in your room all day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide away**

shut down

1 **shut** *sth* **down** | **shut down** *sth*

shut down

if a business, factory, shop etc is shut down or shuts down, it closes and stops working for a long time or permanently: *In 1982 a series of strikes led to the airline being shut down. | A private nursing home had to shut down recently, following complaints of poor hygiene and care.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close down**

shutdown N [C]
when a business, factory, shop etc closes for a long time or permanently: *The power station has just re-opened following a prolonged shutdown for maintenance.*

2 **shut** *sth* **down** | **shut down** *sth*

shut down

if you shut down a machine, you turn it off to stop it working: *A report confirmed that the crash happened when the pilot accidentally shut down the wrong engine. | The correct way to shut the computer down is to type 'Exit' and then switch off.*

3 **shut down**

if a machine shuts down, it turns off and stops working: *The loss of power caused every computer in the building to shut down. | There was further trouble for the astronauts when one of the cooling systems shut down suddenly during a space walk.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut off, turn off**

shutdown N [C]
when a machine turns off or someone turns it off so it stops working: *The engine allows shutdown just 30 seconds after landing.*

4 **shut down** *sb* | **shut** *sb* **down**

AmE informal to prevent an opposing player or team from playing well or getting points in a game or sport: *We all knew that if we wanted to win we'd have to shut down Bobby Mitchell.*

shut in

1 **shut** *sb/sth* **in** *sth* | **shut** *sb/sth* **in**

to prevent a person or an animal from leaving a place, by closing and often locking the door: *It was not at all unusual to punish children by shutting them in a room and leaving them there. | The owners had gone away for the weekend, leaving two dogs and a cat shut in on their own.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lock in**

2 **shut yourself in (sth)**

to go into a room and shut the door so that no one else can get in: *Mark shut himself in his bedroom, got out the cigarettes and practised smoking one. | "Why have you shut yourself in, dear?" my mother asked, banging on the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lock in**

3 **be shut in**

to be in a very small space, especially so that you feel that you cannot move or get out: *Working down the coal mines meant being shut in without enough air or light for long hours every day.*

feel shut in (=feel that you cannot escape from a situation or place that limits what you can do) *I felt shut in that village – it was full of gossiping old men and women.*

shut off

1 **shut off** *sth* **shut** *sth* **off**

if you shut off an engine, machine, power supply etc you deliberately turn it off to stop it working: *As Victor drew up outside his apartment, he shut off the engine and sat there, thinking about the future.* | *When you're the last one leaving the office, always shut off the computers and lock the door.* | *After the storms, the electricity was shut off for two days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

shut-off mechanism/valve N [C]
a shut-off mechanism is able to stop the flow of gas, liquid etc to a machine if necessary, and so stop the machine working: *They criticized the lack of an automatic shut-off mechanism in the cooling system.*

2 **shut off**

if an engine, machine or power supply shuts off, it turns off and stops working: *Experts thought that the plane's engines may have shut off automatically after the explosion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

3 **shut yourself off**

to avoid meeting or talking to other people or having normal friendly relationships with them: *After my husband died I realized that I couldn't shut myself off for ever, so I started attending evening classes and tried to get out more.*

+ from *The way he spoke to me was cold and remote, shutting himself off from me completely.*

shut yourself off from the world/reality *The old lady had unplugged the telephone and disconnected the doorbell, determinedly shutting herself off from the world.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut off**

4 **shut** *sth* **off** **shut off** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

if a road, area etc is shut off, fences have been put round it people are not allowed to go there: *Because of the explosion parts of the city were shut off and traffic was being diverted.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block off**

5 **shut off** *sth* **shut** *sth* **off**

if something shuts off a view, the light etc, it prevents you from seeing it by getting in the way: *A wall of mountains shuts off the view as you look south from Lamia.* | *A large van was in the street outside, shutting off the daylight from the window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out**

be shut off from

be shut off from *sth*

to be completely separated from other people or things, so that you do not communicate with them and are not influenced by them: *The country was still living in the Middle Ages, having been shut off from the outside world for centuries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be cut off, be isolated (from)**

shut out

1 **shut** *sb* **out** **shut out** *sb*

especially BrE to prevent someone from joining in an activity: *It's important that everyone is included in these decisions – at the moment some of the staff feel very shut out.*

+ of *I knew there was something exciting going on but I was shut out of it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leave out**

2 **shut** *sb* **out** **shut out** *sb*

to deliberately not tell someone about your thoughts and feelings, and not allow them to be involved in your life, especially in a way that upsets them: *How can I help you if you keep shutting me out all the time?* | *Ella knew that Travis was shutting her out, that their relationship had changed and they could never go back.*

3 **shut out** *sth* **shut** *sth* **out**

to deliberately stop yourself from thinking about something that is unpleasant or upsetting: *I tried to sleep in an attempt to shut out my fears, but I couldn't.*

shut sth out of your mind *My mother must have known what my father did, but she didn't ask any questions, she just shut it out of her mind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out, blot out**

4 **shut out** *sth* **shut** *sth* **out**

to prevent a sound, light etc from getting into a place: *Kellie put her hands over her ears to shut out his unpleasant remarks.* | *It was cool in the wood – the big green leaves shut out the sun.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out**

5 **shut** *sb* **out** **shut out** *sb*

to prevent someone from entering a place, especially by closing a door: *I tried to see him several times, but he shut me out by slamming the door in my face.*

6 **shut out the world**

if someone shuts out the world, they separate themselves from the rest of the world, especially in order to be quiet and peaceful: *Martin leaned on his bedroom door, trying to shut out the world.* | *When she's reading, she seems to be able to shut out the rest of the world.*

7 **shut out** *sb* **shut** *sb* **out**

AmE to defeat an opposing team or player by preventing them from getting any points: *Colorado shut out Kansas City, 3–0, in the first game of the playoffs.*

shut up

1 **shut up!**

spoken informal used to tell someone rudely or angrily to stop talking: *"Shut up!" said Terry. "I don't care what you think."*

* SIMILAR TO: **belt up!** *BrE spoken informal*

2 **shut up** **shut** *sb* **up** **shut up** *sb*

informal to stop talking, or to make someone stop talking: *I can't stand that woman – she never shuts up.* | *Once he starts talking, it's difficult to shut him up.*

3 **shut** *sb* **up** **shut up** *sb*

to keep a person or an animal somewhere and prevent them from leaving: *Simply shutting more and more people up in prison doesn't solve the problem of crime.*

+ in *The chickens have to be shut up in the shed at night, because of foxes.*

4 **shut up shop**

BrE informal if a business shuts up shop, it closes permanently: *Another tour operator, Impact Holidays, which specializes in Turkish destinations, shut up shop yesterday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close down**

5 **shut up** *sth* **shut** *sth* **up** **shut up**

to close and lock a house, shop, room etc that you own, so that people cannot get into it or use it: *Mr Barnaby was just shutting up his shop in East London, when a gang of four armed men burst in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close up**

SHY

shied, shied, shying

shy away from

shy away from *sth*

to avoid doing something because you are nervous about it or you do not feel confident enough

+ from *There are some members of the party who criticize the leadership in private, but shy away from a direct challenge.*

shy away from doing sth *Logan had said that they would reach an agreement by April, but he shied away from setting a firm date.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shrink from**

SIC

sicced, sicced, siccing

sic on

sic *sb/sth* **on** *sb*

AmE to tell someone or something to attack or catch someone: *Get off my property or I'll sic my dog on you.* | *Equal rights organizations will sic lawyers on you if they think you're discriminating against minorities.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set on**

SICK

sicked, sicked, sicking

sick up

sick up *sth* **sick** *sth* **up**

BrE informal if you sick up something that you have eaten or drunk, it comes back up from your stomach and out of your mouth – used especially about babies and young children: *A lot of babies tend to sick up some of their milk after being fed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring up** *BrE*, **vomit**

SICKEN

sickened, sickened, sickening

sicken of

sicken of *sth*

to stop wanting to have or do something, because you have had or done enough of it already: *Harry found that he usually sickened of a girl's company after a few weeks.* | *After six months I was already sickening of political life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tire of**

SIDE

sided, sided, siding

side against

side against *sb*

to join together with other people in order to oppose another person, country, or group: *My proposal was turned down, because a number of my colleagues sided against me at the last minute.*

side with

side with *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to support a person, country, or group in an argument or fight: *Klein was shocked to find that, when he and Vanessa split up, most of his*

friends sided with her. | In 1977 the Soviet Union sided with Ethiopia in the conflict.

SIDLE

sidled, sidled, sidling

sidle up

sidle up

to walk towards someone or something slowly and a little nervously, as if you do not want anyone to notice what you are doing

+ to *A woman with a baby in her arms sidled up to us and asked us for some money.*

SIFT

sifted, sifted, sifting

sift out

sift out *sth/sb* **sift** *sth/sb* **out**

to separate particular things or people from a group of others, especially when this is difficult or takes a long time: *There are quite a number of interested buyers, but our first job is to sift out the ones that are really serious.*

+ from *My job was bringing all the information together and sifting out the incorrect details from the rest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **weed out**

sift through

sift through *sth*

to carefully examine a large number of things in order to find something that you are looking for: *Fifty-four police officers are sifting through thousands of pieces of information provided by the public.*

* SIMILAR TO: **comb through**

SIGN

signed, signed, signing

sign away

sign away *sth* **sign** *sth* **away**

to give property or a legal right to someone else, by signing an official document: *Her husband had tricked her into signing away her rights to the property.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign over**

sign for

1 **sign for** *sth*

to sign a document to show that you have received a letter, package etc: *I've got a registered letter for you. Could you sign for it here and print your name underneath?*

2 **sign for Liverpool/Arsenal etc**

BrE to sign a contract agreeing to play for a particular football team: *Gallagher's contract was worth about £400,000 when he signed for Leeds in the summer of 1990.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign with**

sign in

1 **sign in**

to write your name in a book when you arrive somewhere that you are visiting, for example a hotel or an office: *For security reasons, the company requires all visitors to sign in at reception.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign out**

2 **sign** *sb* **in** **sign in** *sb*

if you sign someone in at an office, club etc where they are a visitor, you write their name or your name in a book so that they are allowed to enter: *Smiley met me on the steps of his London club, signed me in and took me to lunch.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign out**

sign into

sign a bill/legislation/agreement etc into law

if someone in authority signs something into law, they make it part of the law, by signing an official document: *De Klerk signed forty-five bills into law at a ceremony in Pretoria, including the legislation scrapping apartheid.*

sign off

1 **sign off** **sign off** *sth*

to end an informal letter that you are writing, by giving your final message: *Well, I'll sign off now. Many thanks again for having us to stay – Jean. | Sometimes its difficult to know how to sign off a letter in another language.*

2 **sign off**

informal to end a radio or television broadcast or programme by saying goodbye: *This is Emma Campbell for Radio Gloucester, signing off.*

3 **sign off**

informal to finish doing something, especially after you have been doing it for a long time: *It was 8.58 pm and I'd been working hard all day so I decided it was time to sign off.*

4 **sign** *sb* **off** **sign off** *sb*

BrE if a doctor signs someone off, he or she gives them a note for their employer saying that they are ill and are not able to work: *Mrs Mawdsley telephoned the office the following day to say that she had seen her doctor and had been signed off for a month.*

5 **sign off**

BrE to stop claiming the money given by the government to people without employment, because you have found a job: *A lot of people sign off in the summer months, when there are seasonal jobs available.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign on**

6 **sign off** *sth* **sign** *sth* **off** **sign off on** *sth*

to show that you approve of a plan or that something is ready by writing your name on an official paper: *She has to sign the book off before it can go to the publishers.*

sign off on sth *AmE* *Engineers have signed off on a permit to repair part of the interstate bridge.*

sign on

1 **sign on**

to officially agree to work for someone or do a training course, usually by signing a contract or form

+ with/as *Faulk's career with the Vicksberg newspaper began in 1935, when he signed on with them as a reporter. | I signed on as a volunteer at the homeless shelter.*

+ for *Some of the refugees managed to get to university by attending evening classes or signing on for correspondence courses.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign up**

2 **sign on** *sb* **sign** *sb* **on**

BrE to arrange for someone to sign a contract or form saying that they agree to work for you or play for your team: *The club signed on three new players in July. | The Calvert Group has signed on Cedd Moses as their new general manager.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign up**

3 **sign on** **sign on** *sth*

BrE to claim the money given by the government to people without employment, because you do not have a job: *When we left college there were so few teaching jobs available that a lot of us had to sign on.*

sign on the dole (=claim money from the government because you do not have a job) *Mr Kelly signed on the dole in July, after his company, Kelly House Development, went bust.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign off**

sign out

1 **sign out**

to write your name in a book when you leave somewhere that you are visiting, for example a hotel or an office: *I waited while Dr Fraker collected his bags and signed out.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign in**

2 **sign** *sb* **out** **sign out** *sb*

if you sign someone out of an office, club etc, where they are a visitor, you write their name or your name in a book to show that they have left: *You go ahead if you're in a hurry – I'll sign you out.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign in**

3 **sign out** *sth* **sign** *sth* **out**

to write your name on a form or in a book to show that you have taken or borrowed something: *All equipment must be signed out before it can be removed from the office. | I'm afraid I can't find that file and there's no record of its being signed out.*

sign over

sign *sth* **over** **sign over** *sth*

to give property or a legal right to someone else, by signing an official document

+ to *When Julie and her husband split after ten years of marriage, he signed over everything in the house to her. | The land has been signed over to his son.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign away**

sign up

1 **sign up**

to arrange to take part in an activity or a course of study, by writing your name down on a form or list: *How many people have signed up to go on the theatre trip so far?*

+ for *I'm thinking of signing up for an evening class in classical guitar this year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign on**

2 **sign up**

to sign a contract saying that you agree to work for someone

+ with *Robert's doing really well – he's signed up with Cambridge University Press to write a book on Astronomy.*

3 **sign** *sb* **up** **sign up** *sb*

to arrange for someone to sign a contract saying that they agree to work for you or to play for your team

+ as *An agency has now signed her up as a professional model. | Manchester United are very keen to sign him up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sign on**

sign with

1 **sign with** *sth*

to sign a contract agreeing to play for a particular sports team: *DeJuan Wheat signed with the Timberwolves after leaving the Lakers.*

2 **sign with**

if musicians sign with a company, they sign a contract allowing that company to record and sell their music: *Culture Club and their lead singer, Boy George, signed with Virgin early in 1982.*

SILT

silted, silted, silting

silt up

silt up

if a river or lake silts up, or something silts it up, it fills with sand, mud or soil etc and the water cannot flow properly: *In the eighteenth century, the San Diego River nearly silted up.*

SIMMER

simmered, simmered, simmering

simmer down

simmer down

especially BrE to stop being angry and become calm again: *Come on, Peggy, simmer down now.* | *After everyone had simmered down, the argument wasn't mentioned again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, cool down**

SING

sang, sung, singing

sing along

sing along

to sing with someone else who is already singing or playing music: *The crowd was dancing and singing along.*

+ with *I always sing along with the radio when I drive.*

sing-along N [C]
an informal occasion when people sing songs together: *Bring your guitar and we'll have a sing-along.*

sing

1 **sing out** | **sing out** *sth*

to sing loudly and clearly: *Toby cheerfully sang out the birthday song as soon as Ellen walked into the office.*

2 **sing out** | **sing out** *sth* | **sing** *sth* **out**

especially literary to say something in a loud voice, especially in a friendly way: *"Good morning, Mrs. James!" she sang out as I passed her house.* | *When the dessert cart passes by, she sings out: "How about the strawberry cheesecake tonight, Vito?"*

sing up

sing up

BrE to sing more loudly: *Don't be shy – sing up!*

SINGLE

singled, singled, singling

single out

single out *sb/sth* | **single** *sb/sth* **out**

to choose someone or something from among a group of similar people or things, especially in order to praise them or criticize them: *She singled out Brad Pitt as her favourite actor.*

+ for *Teachers should not single out students for special treatment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick out**

SINK

sank, sunk, sinking

sink back

1 **sink back**

to sit or lie backwards in a more comfortable, relaxing position than you were in before: *Margaret sinks back into the couch for a moment and shakes her head.* | *Inhaling deeply, Duvall sank back against the pillows.*

2 **sink back**

to return to a state that you were in before, or to return to a habit that you used to have

+ into *After the wedding, Eric and I sank back into our usual routine.* | *Eddie sank back into silence, apparently satisfied.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go back**

sink down

1 **sink down**

to let your body move or slide down to a sitting or lying position: *Tom sank down weakly on the sofa, still holding the newspaper in front of him.* | *I sank down next to her and looked at the photographs.*

2 **sink down**

to move downwards: *The sun slowly sank down in the sky and disappeared behind the hills.*

sink in

1 **sink in**

if information, ideas, or facts sink in, you gradually understand them and realize their full meaning: *Ron paused, as if to let the message sink in.* | *Tears welled up in Nancy's eyes as the news of her father's death slowly sank in.*

2 **be sunk in** *sth*

to be in a particular state or mood, especially one that makes you sad or inactive, or makes you think a lot about something: *In the days that followed Diana's death, the whole nation seemed sunk in deep despair.*

sunk in thought *Greg remained on his stool by the bar, sunk in thought.*

sink into

1 **sink** *sth* **into** *sth*

to bite something or stick a knife or other sharp object into something, especially using a lot of force: *The man sank a knife into his brother's chest during an argument.* | *The cat had sunk his claws into Llewelyn's right knee.*

sink your teeth into sth (=bite it violently) *She sank her teeth into his wrist and forced him to let her go.*

2 **sink money/cash etc into** *sth*

if you sink money into a business or product you provide a lot of money for it because you think you can make a profit later: *Developers have already sunk millions of dollars into vacant Malibu land.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **invest in**

S

SIP

sipped, sipped, sipping

sip at/on

sip at/on *sth*

to drink something slowly, swallowing only small amounts: *Haney sipped on his tea and looked bored.* | *I sat on the porch, feeling good and sipping at a beer.*

SIPHON also SYPHON BrE

siphoned, siphoned, siphoning
syphoned, syphoned, syphoning BrE

siphon away

siphon away *sth* **siphon** *sth* **away**

to take something that would have been given to another organization or person: *Critics claim the plan would siphon money away from public schools.* | *Independent politicians threaten to siphon away votes from Democrat and Republican candidates.*

siphon off

1 **siphon off** *sth* **siphon** *sth* **off**

to illegally take something, especially money, from an organization or business and use it for another purpose: *Billions of pounds have been siphoned off from government funds and placed into foreign bank accounts.* | *Three employees were caught siphoning off tickets and selling them for personal profit.*

2 **siphon off** *sth* **siphon** *sth* **off**

to remove liquid from a container using a tube, holding one end of the tube at a lower level than the container so the liquid comes out: *The thieves must have siphoned the gas off from our tank.*

SIT

sat, sat, sitting

sit around
ALSO **sit about** BrE

sit around/about **sit about/around** *sth*

to spend a lot of time relaxing or not doing anything useful: *Marc and I would just sit about for hours and tell each other stories.* | *They just sit around the house and drink coffee all afternoon.*

sit around/about doing sth *The men sat around drinking whiskey and smoking Havana cigars.*

sit back

1 **sit back**

to get into a comfortable position and relax: *Sit back and watch the movie.* | *Just sit back and read the paper – I'll make dinner tonight.*

2 **sit back**

to wait for something to happen without making any effort to do anything about it yourself: *You can't just sit back and expect customers to come to you.*

sit by

sit by

to allow something to happen when you should be doing something to try to stop it: *We can't just sit by and let our children's health be threatened.* | *Would you just sit by if it were your husband having an affair?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand by**

sit down

1 **sit down**

to move into a sitting position after you have been standing: *The old lady got onto the bus and sat down.* | *"Mind if I sit down?" I asked.*

● OPPOSITE: **stand up**

sit-down meal/dinner/restaurant etc N [C] a sit-down meal, dinner, restaurant is one in which you sit at a table and eat a formal meal: *Are they having a buffet at the wedding reception, or a sit-down meal?*

sit-down protest/strike etc N [C] a protest in which people sit down, especially to block a road or other public place, until someone in authority agrees to listen

to their demands: *Police fired tear gas at several thousand people who had begun a sit-down demonstration.*

2 **sit yourself down**

spoken used to tell someone to move into a sitting position after they have been standing: *"Sit yourself down there for a minute," said the nurse.*

3 **sit** *sb* **down**

to make someone move into a sitting position, or to ask someone to sit down: *Our father used to sit us down and ask, "So, what are your goals, kids?" | She picked up the child and sat him down on the sofa.*

4 **sit down**

to try to solve a problem, or to deal with something that needs to be done, by giving it all your attention

+ with *"I am willing to sit down with the Mexican leaders to discuss free trade," Boice said. | Syria's willingness to sit down with Israel at a peace conference*

sit down and do sth *I'm going to sit down and get my taxes done before the weekend. | You've really got to sit down and get this conference organized.*

sit for

sit for *sb/sth*

to sit in a particular position so that someone can paint you, take pictures of you etc: *Getting the actors to sit for a photograph was a difficult task. | Johnson sat for the painter four times before the portrait was finished.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pose (for)**

sit in

1 **sit in**

to be present at a class, meeting, discussion, etc but only watch or listen instead of taking part: *Do you mind if I just sit in today? I'm not feeling very well.*

+ on *Denny went back to UCLA and sat in on a few lectures.*

2 **sit in**

to take part in a protest in which people sit down, especially to block a road or other public place, until someone in authority agrees to do what they want: *Police arrived after protesters began sitting in at the state capitol building.*

sit-in N [C]
a protest in which people sit down, especially to block a road or other public place, until someone in authority agrees to do what they want: *A sit-in organized by war protestors caused chaos in Bratislava's main square earlier today.*

sit in for

sit in for *sb*

to go to a meeting, do a job etc instead of the person who usually does it: *Yvonne will be sitting in for me tomorrow while I'm at the conference. | Bryant Gumbel has never sat in for Tom Brokaw on the evening news broadcast.*

sit on

1 **sit on** *sth*

informal to be very slow at dealing with something, or to delay dealing with something because you have not decided what you want to do: *Adrianne sat on the letter for a few days, unsure if she should mail it. | The bank sat on our loan application for two months.*

2 **sit on** *sth*

to officially be a member of a group that has authority or influence over an organization: *Alice sat on the board of directors for the Albany Chamber of Commerce | Roberta Smith is the first African-American woman to sit on the committee.*

3 **sit on** *sth*

to prevent someone from knowing a piece of information: *A good journalist will know when to sit on a story and when to publish one.*

sit out

1 **sit out** *sth* **sit** *sth* **out**

to not take part in a game, competition, dance etc, because you are injured or tired: *Kosar sat out two games of the 1990 season because of a broken thumb. | I think I'll sit this dance out.*

2 **sit out** *sth* **sit** *sth* **out**

to wait until something is finished, even though you find it boring or unpleasant: *Teenagers danced to rock music, while their parents sat the night out uncomfortably.*

sit over

sit over *sth*

if you sit over a meal, drink etc, you relax and take a long time to eat or drink it: *I thought maybe we could sit over a glass of sherry before dinner.*

sit round

SEE **sit around**

sit through

sit through *sth*

to stay at a meeting, performance etc until it finishes, even though it is very long or

S

boring: *We had to sit through a whole day of boring talks about the company.* | *The film was incredibly boring – I don't know how you managed to sit through it.* | *I've just sat through two hours of Lucy telling me all about her personal problems.*

sit up

1 **sit up**

to move into a sitting position after you have been lying down: *Wendy sat up in bed and stretched.* | *Are you able to sit up and eat something?*

sit-up N [C]
an exercise for your stomach muscles, in which you sit up from a lying position while keeping your feet on the floor: *Sit-ups are best done with your hands behind your neck.*

2 **sit up**

to make your back straighter when you are sitting: *As the news comes on TV, Ken sits up in his chair and starts watching.* | *Sandie forced herself to sit up straight during the interview.*

S

3 **sit up**

to stay awake and not go to bed: *I thought I'd sit up and wait for him to come home.* | *They sat up late into the night talking about old times.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay up**

4 **sit up and take notice**

to suddenly start paying attention to someone or something: *People are starting to sit up and take notice about the dangers of genetically modified foods.*

SIZE

sized, sized, sizing

size up

size up *sb/sth* | **size** *sb/sth* **up**

to look at or think about a person or situation in order to form a judgement or opinion about them: *Rita has a talent for quickly sizing up people.* | *He had just spent a few minutes sizing up the difficulty of the task which lay ahead of him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **weigh up**

SKATE

skated, skated, skating

skate around/over ALSO skate round BrE

skate around/over *sth*

to avoid talking about a problem or subject, or not give it enough attention: *In the early part of the interview, Ms Bowie skated around questions about her relationship with Tom Weiner.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **skirt around, evade**

SKETCH

sketched, sketched, sketching

sketch in

1 **sketch in** *sth* | **sketch** *sth* **in**

to give more information about a plan, idea etc: *In his speech, the president sketched in his idea for reducing taxes.* | *We'll sketch in the details about the new budget during the meeting.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **outline**

2 **sketch in** *sth* | **sketch** *sth* **in**

to add something quickly to a drawing, without using much detail: *Jan sketched in a few people in the background, hoping to make the picture look more lively.*

sketch out

1 **sketch out** *sth* | **sketch** *sth* **out**

to describe something in a few words, giving only the basic details: *Holly will sketch out a plan of tours and concerts for the band.* | *Last month the Republicans sketched out $4 billion worth of budget cuts.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **outline**

2 **sketch out** *sth* | **sketch** *sth* **out**

to draw a basic picture, without including all the details: *Laura sketched out a little map to the party for her friends from out of town.*

SKILL

skilled, skilled, skilling

skill up

skill up | **skill up** *sb*

to improve your skills at work or get new skills, or to make people do this: *The new training programmes are intended to help people to skill up and make themselves more attractive to potential employers.* | *plans to skill up the company's workforce*

SKIM

skimmed, skimmed, skimming

skim off

1 **skim off** *sth* | **skim** *sth* **off** | **skim** *sth* **off** *sth*

if you skim off money, you take it from a larger amount of money and keep it for yourself, especially when it is dishonest or other people disapprove of you doing this: *Stark skilfully*

skimmed off a portion of the profits for himself without his partners realizing it. | *Public officials have been accused of skimming money off the county budget.*

2 **skim off** *sth* **skim** *sth* **off**

to remove something that is on top of a liquid or surface: *Reduce heat and cook 1 hour, skimming off the foam that rises to the top of the soup.* | *Skim off the excess fat from the pan before adding the rest of the ingredients.*

skim over/through

skim over/through *sth*

to read something quickly in order to find the main facts or ideas in it: *Would you mind skimming over the brochure before I take it to the printers?* | *Before the trip, Emma went to the library and skimmed through a book about Paris.*

SKIMP

skimped, skimped, skimping

skimp on

skimp on *sth*

to not spend enough money, time, effort etc on something, or to not use enough of something, so that the result is unsuccessful or of bad quality: *Hospitals will not save money by skimping on patient care.* | *People who skimp on breakfast usually don't save calories because they end up eating more later in the day.* | *Fairchild accused the company of skimping on safety tests and inspections.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scrimp on** *AmE*

SKIN

skinned, skinned, skinning

skin up

skin up

BrE informal to make a cigarette with marijuana (=an illegal drug) in it: *When Jeff started to skin up, Holly decided it was time to leave.* | *Three teenagers were caught skinning up in the park.*

SKIP

skipped, skipped, skipping

skip off

skip off

informal to leave a place suddenly, especially when you should not: *He skipped off for a vacation with a girlfriend and tried not to think about work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off**

skip off with

skip off with *sth*

informal to take something that does not belong to you: *Someone's just skipped off with my pen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off with, walk off with**

skip out

1 **skip out**

AmE informal to leave a place suddenly, especially when you are trying to avoid something: *Randall skipped out of town in the middle of the night.*

2 **skip out**

AmE informal if you skip out on someone, you suddenly leave them and end your relationship

+ on *My Dad skipped out on us when I was five.*

SKIRT

skirted, skirted, skirting

skirt around ALSO skirt round *BrE*

1 **skirt around/round** *sth*

to avoid an important or difficult problem, subject etc: *Johnston skirts around questions about his private life, preferring to focus on promoting his latest film.* | *If you continue to skirt round the problem, it will just get worse.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skate around/over, evade**

2 **skirt around/round** *sth*

to go around the outside edge of a place: *We skirted around the town, to avoid getting caught in traffic.*

SKIVE

skived, skived, skiving

skive off

skive off **skive off** *sth*

BrE informal to avoid work or school by staying away or leaving without permission: *Do you fancy skiving off and going down to the pub?* | *We used to skive off school to go to the beach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **goof off** *AmE informal*

skiver N [C]

someone who avoids work or school by staying away or leaving without permission: *Everyone knew Nev was the biggest skiver in the class.*

SKOOCH
skooched, skooched, skooching

skooch over

skooch over

AmE spoken informal to move sideways in order to make space for another person: *I can't see. Can you skooch over!*

* SIMILAR TO: **skooch up** *AmE spoken*, **move over, shove up** *spoken informal*

skooch up

1 **skooch up**

AmE spoken informal to move sideways in order to make space for another person: *If you skooch up a little we can all sit here.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skooch over** *AmE spoken*, **move up, shove up** *spoken informal*

2 **skooch up**

AmE spoken informal if a shirt or other piece of clothing skooches up, it is slowly pushed up by the movement of your body while you are wearing it: *I hate this shirt – it always skooches up!*

* SIMILAR TO: **ride up**

S

SLACK
slacked, slacked, slacking

slack off

1 **slack off**

to become slower, weaker or less busy: *Business travel normally slacks off for the entire Thanksgiving week. | Economists predict sales will slack off after the holiday season. | Air raids and bombings slacked off as the enemy retreated.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slacken off**

2 **slack off**

informal to make less effort than usual, or to be lazy in your work: *It was Friday afternoon and we were starting to slack off. | Rumours that Mike Tyson had been slacking off in his training were denied by his manager.*

slacker N [C]
someone who is lazy or does not do all the work they should: *There's no system in our office for taking action against the slackers.*

SLACKEN
slackened, slackened, slackening

slacken off

slacken off

to become slower, weaker, or less busy: *By tonight the strong winds should begin to slacken off. | I expect business to slacken off over the summer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slack off**

SLAG
slagged, slagged, slagging

slag off

slag *sb/sth* **off** | **slag off** *sb/sth*

BrE informal to talk about someone in a very critical way, especially when they are not there: *I don't know why Greta doesn't break up with Dan. She's always slagging him off. | Poor Lucy! She's always getting slagged off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dump on** *AmE informal*

SLAM
slammed, slammed, slamming

slam down

slam down *sth* | **slam** *sth* **down**

to hit something against a surface quickly and violently: *He slammed the phone down, yelling "What's going on out there?" | I slammed my fist down on the table and told him I wouldn't be treated this way.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang down**

slam into

slam into *sth/sb*

to crash into something with a lot of force: *The Ford's brakes failed and it mounted the pavement, slamming into a lamp-post. | All 155 passengers died instantly when the plane slammed into the Tinpane mountain on Monday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crash (into)**

slam on

slam on the brakes

to suddenly put your foot hard on the brake in order to stop your car: *The driver slammed on the brakes, but it was too late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jam on the brakes**

SLAP
slapped, slapped, slapping

slap around
ALSO **slap about** *BrE*

slap *sb* **around/about**

to hit someone several times with your hand – often used about a man who hits his wife: *Sykes would come home in a bad temper, slap his wife around and shout at her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock about, rough up** *informal*

slap down

slap *sb/sth* **down** | **slap down** *sb/sth*

to rudely tell someone that their suggestions, questions, ideas etc are stupid or unreasonable: *Mr Cheney promptly slapped me down*

for asking silly questions. | Margaret would slap down anyone who was bold enough to argue with her.

slap on

1 **slap a tax/ban/fine etc on** *sth*

informal to suddenly order that something should be taxed or forbidden, or that someone should pay a fine: *In 1991 the government slapped a 50% tax on all luxury goods. | The EU reacted by slapping a ban on imports of UK beef. | Gasoline retailers have slapped a surcharge on credit card sales.*

* SIMILAR TO: **impose, put on**

2 **slap** *sth* **on** *sth* **slap on** *sth* **slap** *sth* **on**

to put or spread large amounts of paint, butter etc on a surface quickly and carelessly: *Dad was in the kitchen, hurriedly slapping butter on slices of bread. | Ellie rushed upstairs and hurriedly slapped on some make-up.*

SLATE

slated, slated, slating

be slated for

1 **be slated for** *sth*

if an event is slated for a particular time or date etc, it is planned to happen then: *A community meeting on the Boulder Creek town plan is slated for 7 p.m. Monday | The singer's debut at New York's Carnegie Hall is slated for the 17th of October.*

2 **be slated for** *sth*

to be expected to appear in a particular show, television programme, magazine etc: *Newman's story was slated for publication in Resistor magazine. | Councilwoman Molly McKasson is slated for an appearance on the evening news.*

SLAVE

slaved, slaved, slaving

slave away

slave away

to work very hard for a long time without much time to rest: *While you've been out enjoying yourselves, we've been slaving away in the kitchen all morning. | I've spent the last fourteen years slaving away, just to pay off our debts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toil away, slog away** *BrE informal*

SLEEP

slept, slept, sleeping

sleep around

sleep around

informal to have sex with a lot of different people without having a serious relationship with any of them: *I don't sleep around any more, not since I met Jack. | A guy who's spent his youth sleeping around isn't going to find it easy to settle down to married life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw around** *spoken informal*

sleep in

sleep in

to sleep later than usual in the morning, especially because you do not have to go to work or school: *We usually sleep in on Sunday mornings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lie in**

sleep off

sleep *sth* **off** **sleep off** *sth*

to sleep until you do not feel ill any more, especially after drinking too much alcohol: *I suppose they're sleeping off the effects of last night's party.*

sleep it off *The old girl's had a drink too many. Leave her there and let her sleep it off.*

S

sleep on

sleep on *sth*

to delay making a decision about something until the next day or later

sleep on it *There's no hurry. I'm going to sleep on it, and tomorrow I'll decide what to do.*

sleep out

sleep out

to sleep outside: *We used to sleep out under the stars on warm summer nights.*

sleep over

sleep over

informal to sleep at someone else's house for a night: *Is it okay if I sleep over at Jim's place tonight? | If you don't want to drive home, you're welcome to sleep over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay over**

sleep-over N [C]

a party at which children or young people stay the night at someone's house: *One night Mary Jo went to a sleep-over at a friend's house.*

sleep through

sleep through *sth*

to continue sleeping while something is happening and not be woken by it: *How did you manage to sleep through all the noise? | I don't remember much about the play – I must have slept through most of it.*

sleep together

sleep together

if two people are sleeping together, they are having a sexual relationship with each other: *When did you find out that Betty and your husband were sleeping together? | After their baby was born, she and Jonathan stopped sleeping together.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have sex**

sleep with

sleep with *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to have sex with someone: *I'm not going to tell you how many women I've slept with.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have sex with**

S

SLICE

sliced, sliced, slicing

slice off

1 **slice off** *sth* **slice** *sth* **off**

to remove a piece of something from the rest of it by cutting it with one movement of a sharp knife: *Slice off the bottom of each pear so they'll stand up in the dish. | His knife had slipped and sliced off the tip of his forefinger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut off**

2 **slice** *sth* **off** *sth*

to reduce a cost or total by a particular amount quickly and easily: *By using volunteers we were able to slice £10,000 off the cost of the project.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut, chop off**

slice up

slice up *sth* **slice** *sth* **up**

to cut meat, bread, vegetables etc into thin flat pieces: *Slice up the onions and add them to the meat.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut up**

SLICK

slicked, slicked, slicking

slick back

slick back *sth* **slick** *sth* **back**

to push your hair back from your face and keep it in that style: *His black hair was slicked back tight into a pony tail.*

slick down

slick down *sth* **slick** *sth* **down**

to put water or another substance on your hair to keep it close to your head: *He quickly straightened his tie and slicked down his hair with water before going out.*

SLIM

slimmed, slimmed, slimming

slim down

1 **slim down**

to become thinner, especially in order to be healthier or more attractive: *After three months on the diet she had slimmed down to a healthy 61 kilos.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trim down**

slimmed-down ADJ
a slimmed-down person has become thinner and more attractive: *A slimmed-down Sarah Ferguson is now hosting her own TV show.*

2 **slim down** **slim down** *sth* **slim** *sth* **down**

if a company slims down or is slimmed down, it makes itself smaller, by getting rid of some of its workers: *Companies have been slimming down to improve their efficiency. | Responding to economic circumstances, ITN began slimming down its workforce.*

* SIMILAR TO: **downsize**

slimmed-down ADJ
a slimmed-down organization has made itself smaller, especially by getting rid of some of its workers: *A slimmed-down Wedgewood Group will be much better placed to take advantage of the worldwide recovery when it comes.*

SLIP

slipped, slipped, slipping

slip away

1 **slip away**

if someone's power or their chance of success slips away, it gradually disappears: *With its power and prestige slipping away, the Communist Party appealed for unity.*

+ from *As the game went on I could feel the championship slipping away from us.*

2 **slip away**

to die peacefully: *Tim Parry lay there on his hospital bed and quietly slipped away.*

slip by

1 **slip by**

if time slips by, it seems to pass very quickly

without you noticing it, or without you achieving very much: *The hours slipped by so quickly that he almost forgot about lunch.* | *All that time poor Emily suffered in uncomplaining silence, whilst the best years of her youth slipped by.*

2 **let a chance/opportunity slip by**

if you let a chance or opportunity slip by, you do not use it: *Here was a chance to make some money, and Mr Opie was one who never liked to let such an opportunity slip by.* | *If he really loved the girl, then why was he letting this chance slip by without telling her so?*

slip down

slip down easily/nicely etc

BrE if a drink slips down easily, nicely etc, it is easy and enjoyable to drink: *This wine slips down very easily.*

slip in

slip in *sth* **slip** *sth* **in**

to quickly mention something when you are talking or writing about something else, without emphasizing it or saying much about it: *It was a serious lecture, but I was tempted to slip in a joke about the Clinton affair.* | *Writers of detective stories often slip in a tiny clue that most readers will miss.*

slip into

1 **slip into** *sth*

to put on a piece of clothing in which you feel comfortable and relaxed: *I'll just slip into something more comfortable.* | *She slipped into her nightie and slid into bed beside Tom.*

2 **slip into unconsciousness/a coma/ a gentle sleep etc**

to become unconscious or start to sleep: *If brain damage is severe, the patient may slip into a coma and die.* | *She slipped into a gentle sleep.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lapse into**

3 **slip into Italian/Polish/dialect etc**

to start to use a type of language that is more familiar to you than the one you have been using, especially without intending to: *He spoke very quickly and occasionally slipped into the local Scottish dialect.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lapse into**

4 **slip into** *sth*

to start doing something or start behaving in a particular way, although you did not intend to: *Without a job to go to, Kevin soon slipped into the habit of getting up at noon.* | *Tension increased, and it was not long before the two countries slipped into total war.*

slip off

1 **slip** *sth* **off** **slip off** *sth*

to take off a piece of clothing quickly: *Just slip your jacket off and roll up your sleeve so I can check your blood pressure.* | *He slipped off his coat and hung it in the hall.*

● OPPOSITE: **slip on**

2 **slip off**

to leave a place quickly and quietly, so that no one notices you going: *"Where's Steve?" "I think he must have slipped off home."* | *We used to slip off down to the pub when the boss wasn't around.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slope off** *BrE informal*

slip on

slip *sth* **on** **slip on** *sth*

to put on a piece of clothing quickly and easily: *Now, if you'll just hop out of bed and slip on your dressing gown, we'll take you along for an X-ray.*

● OPPOSITE: **slip off**

slip-on shoes/slip ons ADJ
slip-on shoes are ones that you just put your feet into without having to pull them on or fasten them: *slip-on sandals* | *a pair of slip-on canvas shoes*

S

slip out

slip out

if a remark or a piece of information slips out, you mention it without intending to: *Timothy Gedge had let the truth slip out while he was drunk.* | *I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that – it just slipped out.*

slip out of

slip out of *sth*

to take off clothes or shoes quickly: *She slipped out of her swimsuit and wrapped a towel around her.* | *I'd never seen Mum dance before but she slipped out of her sandals and danced with Auntie Jean.*

slip over on

slip one over on *sb*

especially AmE to deceive or trick someone by telling them something that is not true: *It would be easy for a smooth talker like Brad to slip one over on these simple-minded country boys.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put one over on**

slip through

slip through

if a something that is incorrect or illegal slips through, the person or machine that is

supposed to check it does not notice it and so it is not removed or changed: *Even when a document has been given a spellcheck, some errors will inevitably slip through.*

slip up

slip up

to make a careless mistake, especially when you are doing your job or playing a game: *Unless Manchester United slip up badly, they're sure to win the European Cup.* | *Your lawyer slipped up on an important detail – that's why the prosecution failed.*

slip-up N [C]
a careless mistake: *I'm afraid there's been a bit of a slip-up over arranging your contract.*

SLOB

slobbed, slobbed, slobbing

slob around

slob around

BrE spoken informal to spend time doing nothing and being lazy: *He was still slobbing around in his dressing gown at lunchtime.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **laze around, slop around**

SLOBBER

slobbered, slobbered, slobbering

slobber over

slobber over *sb*

informal to look at someone with sexual pleasure and pay a lot of attention to them, in a way that is embarrassing or offensive to other people: *It's disgusting to watch him slobbering over young women half his age.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drool over**

SLOG

slogged, slogged, slogging

slog away

slog away

BrE informal to work hard at something for a long time, especially something that is difficult or boring: *I shall go on slogging away until I've finished the job.*

+ at *Randall spent the next few months slogging away at Russian grammar.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slave away, toil away**

slog out

slog it out

BrE informal if two people, teams, armies etc slog it out, they fight, compete, or argue for a long time without stopping until one side wins: *They're never going to agree, so it's best to leave them to slog it out.* | *two of the greatest boxers of our time slogging it out at Madison Square Garden*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fight it out, slug it out** *informal*, **battle it out**

slog through

slog through *sth*

to read or study something that is long and difficult to understand: *There was no alternative to sitting down and slogging through vocabulary lists.* | *After slogging through 384 pages of technical reports, I was beginning to understand the problem.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **plough through**

SLOP

slopped, slopped, slopping

slop around

slop around

informal to spend time being lazy and doing very little, wearing old, untidy clothes: *I didn't really expect to find this famous scientist slopping around in old jeans and a dirty sweatshirt.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slob around** *BrE informal*, **laze around**

slop out

slop out

BrE if prisoners slop out, they empty their toilet buckets every morning: *Prisoners had to line up with their buckets to slop out before breakfast.*

slopping out N [U]
BrE the system in some prisons where prisoners have to empty their toilet buckets every morning: *The modernization of prisons will bring an end to slopping out.*

SLOPE

sloped, sloped, sloping

slope away

slope away

if the ground slopes away, it goes downwards: *In front of the farmhouse the land slopes away towards the river.*

slope off

slope off

BrE informal to leave somewhere quietly and secretly, especially to avoid work, trouble etc: *He must have sloped off home when no-one was looking.* | *Scenting our dogs, the wolf turned away and sloped off into the forest.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slip off**

S

SLOSH

slosh around

be sloshing around

informal if there is a lot of money sloshing around, there is more of it available than is needed: *Why can't some of that money sloshing around in European banks be used to relieve poverty in the Third World?*

SLOT

slotted, slotted, slotting

slot in

slot *sth* **in** | **slot in** *sth*

informal to get a goal in a game of football by skilfully kicking the ball into the net: *Winterburn passed the ball to Wright, who slotted it in to make the score 3–1.* | *Beckham slotted a goal in just minutes before the final whistle.*

slot in/into

1 **slot** *sth/sb* **in** | **slot in** *sb/sth*

slot *sth/sb* **into** *sth*

to find a time for something or someone in a carefully planned, programme of events: *Dr Singh is extremely busy at present, but I could slot you in at 11.15 tomorrow.* | *The BBC managed to slot in a newsflash before the film started.* | *We could slot you into the afternoon session.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fit in/into**

2 **slot in** | **slot into** *sth*

BrE to become accepted as a part of a group and to combine effectively with the rest of it: *Stewart slotted in well with the rest of the team and made a big contribution to the game.* | *new teaching materials that will slot into the existing science syllabus*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fit in/into**

3 **slot** *sb* **into** *sth*

to decide that someone is of a particular type or has a particular role in society: *Women are automatically slotted into the role of caring for the needs of others.* | *sociologists who try to slot people into social or economic categories*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pigeonhole, categorize**

SLOUCH

slouched, slouched, slouching

slouch around/about

slouch around/about

BrE to stand or walk around slowly with your shoulders bent forward because you are bored and have nothing to do: *Bored youths were slouching around on street corners, smoking and whistling at passing girls.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mooch around/about**

SLOUGH

sloughed, sloughed, sloughing

slough off

1 **slough off** *sth* | **slough** *sth* **off**

formal to get rid of a feeling, memory, or quality that you do not want: *The company is now anxious to slough off its bad reputation.* | *feelings of guilt that are not sloughed off so easily*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, shake off, cast off**

2 **slough off** *sth* | **slough** *sth* **off**

if a snake or other animal sloughs off its old dead skin, that skin comes off its body when a new skin grows: *A rattlesnake may slough off its skin up to four times a year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shed**

S

SLOW

slowed, slowed, slowing

slow down

1 **slow down** | **slow down** *sb/sth*

slow *sb/sth* **down**

to start to move slowly or to make someone or something do this: *Police are asking motorists to slow down and take extra care.* | *Ice on the road slowed us down considerably.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slow-up**

● OPPOSITE: **speed up, accelerate**

2 **slow down/up** *sb/sth*

slow *sb/sth* **down/up** | **slow down/up**

to start to work or develop more slowly, or to make someone or something do this: *An industrial dispute has slowed down the production of engines at Ford's Halewood factory.* | *If business slows down, some of these workers are going to lose their jobs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slow up**

● OPPOSITE: **speed up**

slowdown N [SINGULAR]
when something grows or develops more slowly: *a slowdown in the US economy*

3 **slow down**

if you slow down, you become less active or work with less energy than before because you are older: *When you reach the age of 60, it's time to slow down a little.*

slow up

1 **slow up** | **slow up** *sth/sb* | **slow** *sth/sb* **up**

to begin to move or work more slowly or to make something or someone do this: *The car slowed up as it approached the gate.* | *Computing problems slowed us up a bit.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slow down**

● OPPOSITE: **speed up**

2 **slow up** *sth* | **slow** *sth* **up**

to make something happen or develop more slowly: *The new legislation could slow up the whole immigration process.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slow down**

● OPPOSITE: **speed up**

SLUG

slugged, slugged, slugging

slug out

slug it out

informal if two or more people, teams, armies etc slug it out, they fight, compete, or argue for a long time without stopping until one side wins: *Now we can watch our political leaders slugging it out in live TV debates.* | *two heavyweights standing toe-to-toe and slugging it out*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fight it out, battle it out, slog it out** *BrE informal*

SLUICE

sluiced, sluiced, sluicing

sluice down

sluice down *sth* | **sluice** *sth* **down**

to wash something by throwing a lot of water over it: *The crew were sluicing down the deck with bucketfuls of seawater.*

SMACK

smacked, smacked, smacking

smack of

smack of *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

if something smacks of an unpleasant quality, attitude etc, it seems to have some of that quality, attitude etc in it: *Dawson's remarks about the Asian community smack of racism.* | *I wouldn't want to be involved in anything that smacks of illegality.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **savour/savor of**

S

SMARTEN

smartened, smartened, smartening

smarten up

1 **smarten up** *sth/sb* | **smarten** *sth/sb* **up** | **smarten up**

BrE to make yourself or something look neater and tidier: *Barbara had smartened herself up ready for the interview.* | *Smarten up, darling, you're not fit to go anywhere looking like that.* | *He had made up his mind to sell the old house after he had smartened it up a bit.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **spruce up**

2 **smarten up your act/ideas**

BrE to improve the way you think and work, so that you are more effective: *You'd better smarten your ideas up if you want to keep your job here.* | *This is a clear message to the manufacturers. Smarten up your act or we'll buy our machines from someone else.*

3 **smarten up**

AmE to become more wise and less foolish: *Let's hope Barbara has smartened up since her last relationship.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wise up** *AmE*

SMASH

smashed, smashed, smashing

smash down

smash down *sth* | **smash** *sth* **down**

to hit something such as a door or wall so violently that it falls to the ground: *There were complaints that police had smashed down doors and destroyed furniture while searching the premises.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **break down**

smash in

smash *sth* **in** | **smash in** *sth*

to break something or make a hole in it, by hitting it violently: *Hundreds of demonstrators were smashing in the windows of government buildings* | *Someone had smashed his skull in with a baseball bat.*

smash sb's face/head in *spoken informal* (=hit someone hard in the face or head) *If he tries to mess me around, I'll smash his stupid face in.*

smash up

smash up *sth* | **smash** *sth* **up**

to destroy something or damage it very badly by hitting it violently or crashing it: *A gang of thugs came into the bar and smashed the place up.* | *a millionaire playboy who spent*

his wilder years doing drugs and smashing up expensive cars

smash-up N [C]
especially BrE a serious road or train accident: *Two German tourists died in a smash-up on Highway 61 earlier today.*

SMELL

smelled also *smelt BrE, smelled* also *smelt BrE, smelling*

smell of

smell of *sth*

to have a smell that is like a particular thing: *The house still smells of paint.* | *When he came home smelling of whiskey, she scolded him fiercely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reek of, stink (of)**

smell out

1 **smell** *sth/sb* **out** | **smell out** *sth/sb*

if an animal smells out something or someone, it finds them by using its sense of smell: *A fox could hide in the woods after dark, but our dogs would smell it out.*

2 **smell out** *sth* | **smell** *sth* **out**

to discover something that someone wants to keep hidden or secret because you have a natural ability to do this: *Dobson had a cunning instinct that could smell out weakness in others.* | *They feared her because somehow she always smelt out their innermost secrets.*

3 **smell out** *sth* | **smell** *sth* **out**

BrE to fill a place with an unpleasant smell: *The trouble with fried onions is that they smell the place out for days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stink out** *informal*

smell up

smell *sth* **up** | **smell up** *sth*

AmE to fill a place with an unpleasant smell: *Those cats of here make a mess on the floor and smell up the whole apartment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stink out** *informal*, **smell out** *BrE*

SMILE

smiled, smiled, smiling

smile on

fortune/fate/the gods etc are smiling on *sb*

especially literary used to say that someone is lucky because something good happens to them or they avoid something bad happening: *Fortune was smiling on him, and he went on to win the match easily.*

SMOKE OUT

smoked, smoked, smoking

smoke out

1 **smoke out** *sb* | **smoke** *sb* **out**

to discover who is causing a problem and force them to make themselves known: *The McCarthy trials were intended to smoke out Communist sympathizers and enemy agents.*

2 **smoke out** *sb/sth* | **smoke** *sb/sth* **out**

to force a person or animal to come out of a place by filling it with smoke: *When the honey is ready, beekeepers smoke out the bees and remove the honeycombs from the hive.*

SMOOTH

smoothed, smoothed, smoothing

smooth

1 **smooth away** *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **away**

to get rid of any problems, worries, or difficulties: *The two leaders met secretly in Washington to smooth away any obstacles to the peace agreement.*

2 **smooth away** *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **away**

to get rid of any lines or roughness on a surface so that it is completely smooth: *Oil of Ulay helps smooth away those lines and wrinkles and keeps your skin young-looking.*

smooth down

smooth down *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **down**

to make the surface of something smooth and flat, for example your clothes or your hair, especially by pressing it down with your hands: *Jenny got up and smoothed down her dress.* | *Adjusting his tie and smoothing down his hair, he walked briskly into the auditorium.*

smooth out

1 **smooth out** *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **out**

to make cloth or paper smooth and flat by moving your hand across it: *He smoothed out the map, and began to plan their route.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flatten**

2 **smooth out** *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **out**

to make something happen in an even and regular way without any sudden changes or problems: *The government wanted to smooth out the business cycle, and stop the swings from boom to bust.*

3 **smooth out** *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **out**

to deal with any problems, difficulties, or disagreements, so that something can work effectively or so that people can have a good relationship with each other: *The talks are*

S

intended to smooth out any practical problems which may get in the way of a peace settlement.

smooth over

smooth over *sth* | **smooth** *sth* **over**

to make disagreements and other problems seem less serious by talking about them to the people involved: *I was sure that I could smooth over our little misunderstanding, and that Sergia would then be glad to have me back again.*

smooth things over *Perhaps it would be an opportunity to smooth things over, to apologize again and make a fresh start.*

SMOTHER

smothered, smothered, smothering

smother in/with

1 **smother** *sth* **in/with** *sth*

to cover the surface of something with a large amount of a substance: *Before they set off for the beach they smothered themselves in suncream.* | *Hubert was eating a huge piece of bread, which was smothered with a mixture of peanut-butter and raspberry jelly.*

2 **smother** *sb* **with kisses**

to kiss someone's face many times: *She ran to meet him and smothered him with kisses.*

S

SNACK

snacked, snacked, snacking

snack on

snack on *sth*

to eat small amounts of a particular food between main meals or instead of a meal: *I tend to snack on chocolate during the day when I'm working.*

SNAFFLE

snaffle, snaffled, snaffling

snaffle up

snaffle up *sth* | **snaffle** *sth* **up**

informal to buy something quickly and eagerly: *His company was snaffled up by the Saatchi brothers in the late '80s.*

SNAP

snapped, snapped, snapping

snap out

snap out *sth* | **snap** *sth* **out**

to say something quickly or suddenly, especially when you are annoyed or quickly giving orders: *Captain Vincent was furiously snapping out instructions to the crew.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bark**

snap out of

1 **snap out of** *sth* | **snap** *sb* **out of** *sth*

to stop feeling unhappy or upset, and become more cheerful, or to make someone do this

snap out of it *"Come on Fran, snap out of it! Things aren't really so bad."*

snap sb out of it *Marie's been feeling really depressed recently, and I can't seem to snap her out of it.*

2 **snap out of** *sth*

to suddenly stop thinking pleasant thoughts that make you forget about what is really happening, or to make someone do this: *He was snapped out of his daydream by Rachel Gray, who suddenly appeared by his side.* | *The doctor snapped out of his reverie and looked over at the clock on the wall.*

snap to

snap to it

spoken to start working quickly – used especially when telling someone they should start working: *"We need a bucket of water" he said. "Snap to it, woman!"*

snap up

1 **snap up** *sth* | **snap** *sth* **up**

to buy something very quickly before other people can buy it, especially because it is very cheap or you want it very much: *All the tickets for the game were snapped up in less than two hours.* | *Shoppers flooded into the store, hoping to snap up bargains on clothes, handbags etc.*

2 **snap up** *sb* | **snap** *sb* **up**

to eagerly take the opportunity of making someone part of your team, organization etc: *Owen was snapped up by Liverpool before he'd even left school.*

3 **snap up** *sth* | **snap** *sth* **up**

if you snap up a chance or opportunity to do something, you take it as soon as you can before it is too late: *I'm sure if they offered him the job he'd snap it up straightaway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab**

SNARL

snarled, snarled, snarling

snarl up

1 **snarl up** | **snarl up** *sth*

if traffic snarls up or is snarled up, the cars cannot move freely because the road is blocked or too busy: *The traffic was snarled up at the next junction.* | *Drivers were swearing as they got snarled up in the midday Cairo traffic.*

snarl-up N [C]
when traffic cannot move freely because the road is blocked or there are too many cars: *snarl-ups on roads out of Paris*

2 **snarl up** | **snarl up** *sth* | **snarl** *sth* **up**

if a system or process snarls up or is snarled up, it stops working because there is too much work to deal with: *The huge number of cases has snarled up the court process.*

snarl-up N [C]
when something such as an official process cannot work smoothly: *delays caused by snarl-ups at the passport office*

3 **be snarled up**

to be caught in something such as a net, a mass of branches etc, and be unable move: *Dolphins sometimes get snarled up in the nets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be caught (up) in**

SNATCH

snatched, snatched, snatching

snatch at

1 **snatch at** *sth*

to quickly put out your hand to try to take or hold something: *He snatched at the steering wheel and tried to turn it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab at**

2 **snatch at** *sth*

to quickly try to use the chance to do something while you can: *Jody snatched at the chance to chat with the Prince while they were together.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab at**

snatch away

snatch away *sth* | **snatch** *sth* **away**

to suddenly take something away from someone: *Marco tried to snatch the ring away from her.* | *In the last minute of the game United snatched the championship away with an amazing goal from Giggs.*

snatch up

snatch up *sth* | **snatch** *sth* **up**

to pick something up very quickly and often violently, especially because you feel very angry or excited: *He snatched up the bottle and flung it through the open window.* | *The phone began to ring again. Cornelius snatched it up.*

SNEAK

sneaked or *snuck* *especially AmE*, *sneaked* or *snuck* *especially AmE*, *sneaking*

sneak on

sneak on *sb*

BrE informal to tell someone such as an employer, parent or teacher that another person has done something wrong, because you want to cause trouble for that person: *She didn't want the other girls to think that she was sneaking on them behind their backs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rat on** *informal*, **tattle on** *AmE informal*

sneak up

sneak up

to come near to someone very quietly, so that they do not hear or see you until you reach them: *Kate sneaked up behind him and put her hands over his eyes.*

+ on *A couple of rough-looking kids snuck up on him in a dark alley and robbed him of all his money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **creep up on**

SNEEZE

sneeze at

not to be sneezed at

spoken informal used to say that something is so good that you should definitely consider it: *$5000 a week was not to be sneezed at.*

* SIMILAR TO: **not to be sniffed at** *spoken informal*

SNIFF

sniffed, sniffed, sniffing

sniff around/round

1 **sniff around** | **sniff around** *sth*

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to try to find out information about someone or something, especially information that they want to hide: *It won't be long before the tax office starts sniffing around.* | *Of course she'll keep quiet. She won't want the police sniffing around her place.*

2 **sniff around** *sb* | **sniff around**

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE informal to show an eager interest in someone or something when this is not wanted: *Rich families didn't want people like him sniffing around their daughters.* | *What is Psion doing sniffing around Amstrad?*

S

sniff at

1 **not to be sniffed at**

spoken informal used to say that something is so good that you should definitely consider it: *The price, however, is not to be sniffed at: £17.50!*

* SIMILAR TO: **not to be sneezed at**

2 **sniff at** *sth*

to disapprove of something and think that it is not very good – use this when you disagree with people who think like this: *The critics tended to sniff at his films, and dismiss them as being rather childish.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn your nose up at sth**

sniff out

1 **sniff out** *sth* **sniff** *sth* **out**

to find something after searching for it, especially to find out information about something that other people want kept secret, or to find something that may be useful or valuable: *Journalists are trained to sniff out a good story.* | *She had a talent for sniffing out bargains.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nose out**

S

2 **sniff out** *sth* **sniff** *sth* **out**

if a dog sniffs out something, for example hidden drugs or explosives, the dog finds it using its sense of smell: *A police dog sniffed out over 400 pounds of cocaine in a camper van on the Mexican border.*

sniff round *BrE*

SEE **sniff around/round**

SNOWED

be snowed in/up

be snowed in ALSO **be snowed up** *BrE*

to be unable to leave the place where you are because there is so much snow on the ground: *Many people are snowed in and cannot get to work.* | *We were snowed up all week in a mountain cabin.*

be snowed off/out

be snowed off *BrE*

ALSO **be snowed out** *AmE*

if an event that has been arranged to happen is snowed off, snow prevents it from taking place: *Apparently the game's been snowed off.*

be snowed under

be snowed under

to have so much work, so many letters, phone calls etc, that it is difficult to deal with everything: *I would have called you earlier but I've been absolutely snowed under.* | *The producers say they've been snowed under with applications from people who want to be on the show.*

be snowed up

SEE **be snowed in/up**

SNUFF

snuffed, snuffed, snuffing

snuff out

1 **snuff out** *sth* **snuff** *sth* **out**

to end something suddenly, especially something that has been developing or growing: *Tanks were sent in to control the protestors, and the democracy movement was snuffed out.* | *Lilley warned the government against snuffing out the economic recovery by raising taxes.*

2 **snuff out** *sth* **snuff** *sth* **out**

if you snuff out a candle or flame, you stop it from burning: *He turned over and snuffed out the candle on his bedside table.*

3 **snuff out** *sb/sth* **snuff** *sb/sth* **out**

informal to kill someone: *an innocent little boy whose young life was snuffed out in a moment of senseless savagery*

SNUGGLE

snuggled, snuggled, snuggling

snuggle down

snuggle down

to move into a warm comfortable position in your bed, especially in order to sleep: *With a sigh, she snuggled down under the quilt again, and was soon asleep.* | *I snuggled down in my sleeping bag and listened to the wind howling outside the tent.*

snuggle up

1 **snuggle up**

to move into a warm comfortable position lying or sitting next to someone: *It was a cold night and the children snuggled up to keep warm.*

+ to *Tess snuggled up to him, her head on his chest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cuddle up** *informal*

2 **be snuggled up**

to be lying or sitting in a warm comfortable position: *She longed to be indoors, snuggled up in bed with a good book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be curled up**

SOAK
soaked, soaked, soaking

be soaked in

be soaked in *sth*

literary to contain a lot of a particular quality: *The city was soaked in history.* | *We live in a culture that is soaked in violence.*

be soaked through

be soaked through

to be completely wet: *By the time he got home, his jacket was soaked through.* | *You'd better take those clothes off! You look soaked through!*

* SIMILAR TO: **drench**

soak up

1 **soak up** *sth* | **soak** *sth* **up**

to enjoy experiencing or looking at something in a place: *You can stay in pretty mountain villages and soak up the scenery.*

soak up the sun/sunshine *Morocco is an ideal place for soaking up the sun.*

soak up the atmosphere (=enjoy watching and experiencing all the interesting things that are happening in a place) *I wanted to wander around the old markets and soak up the atmosphere.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enjoy**

2 **soak up** *sth* | **soak** *sth* **up**

if something soaks up a liquid, it takes the liquid into itself: *He used a towel to soak up the blood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **absorb**

3 **soak up** *sth* | **soak** *sth* **up**

to learn a lot of information and ideas about a subject by reading, listening to other people talking about it etc: *I read a lot of books and tried to soak up as many new ideas about gardening as I could.* | *"You've been very quiet!" "I've been soaking up your words of wisdom!"*

4 **soak up** *sth* | **soak** *sth* **up**

to use a lot of money, especially an unreasonably or unusually large amount: *The new satellite network soaked up more than $65 million of public money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **use up**

5 **soak up** *sth* | **soak** *sth* **up**

to not be badly affected by something, for example pressure, strong criticism, or difficult conditions: *The German team are famous for their ability to soak up pressure and come back to win.* | *The Toyota can soak up a lot of punishment off road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **withstand**

SOB
sobbed, sobbed, sobbing

sob out

sob out *sth*

to say something while crying noisily: *Here she was, sobbing out her troubles to him again.* | *"It's so unfair," she sobbed out.*

SOBER
sobered, sobered, sobering

sober down

sober down

BrE to stop being so excited, worried, or frightened, and become calm: *When they'd all sobered down, he went on with his story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down**

sober up

1 **sober up** | **sober** *sb* **up** | **sober up** *sb*

to gradually become less drunk or make someone less drunk: *The next day, when she had sobered up, she came over to apologize for her behaviour.* | *The coffee should have sobered him up by now.*

2 **sober up** | **sober up** *sb* | **sober** *sb* **up**

to behave in a more serious and sensible way, or make someone do this: *The bombing helped to sober up a lot of people who had previously supported the terrorists.*

SOCK
socked, socked, socking

be socked in

be socked in

AmE if an airport, road, or area is socked in, you cannot see far because it is surrounded by bad weather: *Boston was socked in, so the plane flew straight to Philadelphia.*

sock to

1 **sock it to** *sb*

informal to hit someone very hard: *Tyson socked it to him with a left to his jaw.*

2 **sock it to** *sb*

informal to do something in a way that is very impressive and has a strong effect – used especially about performers and teams: *The audience is waiting for you, Frank. Get out there and sock it to them.*

SOD

● **Sod** is a rude word, and some people are offended by it.

sod off

sod off!

BrE informal a very rude way of telling someone to go away: *Sod off and leave me alone!*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *informal*, **fuck off** *taboo*

SOFTEN

softened, softened, softening

soften up

1 **soften up** *sb* **soften** *sb* **up**

to make someone more likely to do what you want or believe what you want, especially by praising them or being kind to them: *I saw now she was trying to soften me up just to ask me a favour.* | *Buy her some flowers – that should soften her up a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **butter up** *informal*

S

2 **soften up** *sb/sth* **soften** *sb/sth* **up**

to make an enemy's defences weaker so that they will be easier to attack, for example by bombing them: *Allied warships began softening up German defensive positions along the Normandy coast.* | *Strong Japanese positions were softened up by intense aerial bombardments, followed by the landing of marine assault forces.*

3 **soften up** *sth* **soften up** *sth*

to make something soft: *Use linseed oil to soften up the brushes.* | *The rain had softened up the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **soften**

SOLDIER

soldiered, soldiered, soldiering

soldier on

soldier on

to continue doing something, even though it is difficult or unpleasant and needs a lot of effort: *Hodge managed to soldier on until the end of the game in spite of his injuries.* | *The old man laughed and said "I think I can soldier on for a few more years yet!"*

* SIMILAR TO: **struggle on**

SOP

sopped, sopped, sopping

sop up

sop up *sth* **sop** *sth* **up**

to remove liquid from a surface, using something soft such as a piece of cloth or bread, which takes the liquid into itself: *She used some garlic bread to sop up the last of the sauce on her plate.*

* SIMILAR TO: **soak up**

SORT

sorted, sorted, sorting

sort out

1 **sort out** *sth* **sort** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to successfully deal with a problem, a difficult situation, or a disagreement: *The Irish star revealed that she went to a psychiatrist to sort out her problems.* | *the role of the United Nations in sorting out international disputes*

get it sorted out *I'll be glad when we've got everything sorted out.*

sort yourself out/sort out your life (=deal with your personal problems and difficulties so that you can have a normal life) *Fergie should be left in peace to sort out her life. She's had enough drama lately.* | *You've got to try and stop drinking and sort yourself out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deal with, resolve** *formal*

2 **sort itself out**

if a situation sorts itself out, it stops being a problem without anyone trying to do anything: *Don't worry. I'm sure it'll all sort itself out in the end.*

3 **sort out** *sth* **sort** *sth* **out**

to arrange or organize things so that they are no longer untidy or badly organized, or so that they are ready to be used: *Ally wanted me to help her sort out the house.* | *We need to sort out our camping gear before we go away on holiday.* | *Beaverbrook has until November 9 to sort out his financial affairs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put sth in order**

sort-out N [SINGULAR]
BrE informal when you make a place tidy and get rid of the things you do not need: *Cathy's room could do with a good sort-out.*

4 **sort out** *sth* **sort** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to arrange to get something or to arrange for something to be done: *Working mothers often have difficulty sorting out childcare.* | *I'll call the airline and see if they can sort something out about the tickets.*

5 **sort out** *sth* **sort** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to make final decisions about something that is planned to happen by discussing it with other people and dealing with all the things that are connected with it: *The Manchester United star is set to travel north to sort out the details of his new contract.* | *Have you sorted out where you're going to*

live? | You'd have thought by now they would have sorted it out.

∗ SIMILAR TO: **finalize**

6 **sort out** *sth* | **sort** *sth* **out**

to separate one type of thing from another: *Steve had spotted the letter while sorting out mail for first class delivery.*

sort out sth from sth (=separate one type of thing from another) *Always sort out the whites from the other clothes, and never put them together in the same wash.*

7 **sort out** *sb* | **sort** *sb* **out**

BrE *informal* to stop someone from causing problems or annoying you, for example by attacking them or punishing them: *They had a big fight, and she had to call in the police to sort him out. | He said if I ever went near his girlfriend again, he'd come round with his mates and sort me out.*

sort through

sort through *sth*

to look for something among a lot of similar things, especially when you arrange these things into a particular order: *She sat down and sorted carefully through the files. She quickly found the one she was looking for.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go through**

SOUND

sounded, sounded, sounding

sound off

1 **sound off**

to express strong opinions about something, especially by angrily complaining about it and saying that you think it is wrong

+ about *Here he is again, sounding off about the amount of sex and violence on our TV screens. | This is a free country and people are allowed to sound off about the fur trade and about experimenting with live animals.*

2 **sound off**

AmE if soldiers sound off, they shout out their names to show that they are there: *We could hear the soldiers sound off before they began their training exercises.*

sound out

sound out *sb* | **sound** *sb* **out**

to talk to someone in order to find out what they think about a plan or idea, or whether they might like to do something: *The President sent one of his top advisers to the Middle East to sound out Arab opinion on the deal. | Sony has already been sounding out other Japanese firms about joining the project.*

SOUP

souped, souped, souping

soup up

1 **soup up** *sth* | **soup** *sth* **up**

to make a car more powerful by making changes to its engine: *Young men souped up their vehicles and raced along the dry lake beds around Los Angeles.*

souped-up ADJ
a souped-up car has had its engine changed so that it is much more powerful and can go much faster: *Hoodlums tore up and down the city streets, their souped-up cars blasting out loud rap music.*

2 **soup up** *sth* | **soup** *sth* **up**

to make changes to something in order to make it more powerful, effective, interesting etc than it was before – use this especially about computers and computer products: *software to soup up the office e-mail*

souped-up ADJ
something that is souped-up has been changed to make it more powerful, effective, interesting etc: *He was using some kind of souped-up Macintosh computer.*

S

SPACE

spaced, spaced, spacing

space out

1 **be spaced out**

informal someone who is spaced out cannot think clearly, for example because they have been taking drugs, or they feel very tired: *That Saturday I was fine until the afternoon. Then I began to feel totally spaced out. | Dana Carvey and Mike Meyers play the two spaced-out hosts of 'Wayne's World'.*

2 **be spaced out**

informal something that is spaced out seems very strange and unusual, like something that you might experience when you have been taking drugs: *Some of the songs were really spaced out, and I couldn't make out any of the lyrics.*

3 **space out** *sth* | **space** *sth* **out**

to arrange objects or events so that there is an equal amount of space or a period of time between them: *Periods of practice should be spaced out with short rest periods in between. | The trees were spaced out in a formal pattern. | Horowitz had spoken quietly, the words spaced out.*

4 **space out**

AmE *informal* to stop paying attention and just look at something without thinking, especially because you are tired or bored or have

taken drugs: *I totally spaced out during the meeting and didn't hear the details about our next project.*

5 **space out** *sth* **space** *sth* **out**

informal, especially AmE to forget something for a short time: *Tina spaced out her doctor's appointment and had to ask for a new one.*

SPARK

sparked, sparked, sparking

spark off

spark off *sth* **spark** *sth* **off** ✕

to suddenly cause something, for example protests, violence, discussion, or interest in something: *An apparently minor incident sparked off rioting which lasted until Monday, 6 July.* | *Rosa Parks, the black American woman whose case sparked off the civil rights movement in the United States* | *Dr Pusztai's report sparked off a fierce debate about the dangers of introducing genetically modified foods.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trigger off, set off, touch off**

S

SPEAK

spoke, spoken, speaking

speak for

1 **speak for** *sb*

to express the opinions, thoughts, or feelings of a person or group of people: *Shelley was a poet who spoke for the people.* | *I'm sure I speak for everyone here when I say that it has been a pleasure to work with you.*

2 **sth speaks for itself**

used to say that something shows clearly that something is true, and there is no need for anyone to explain it or give more information: *White House staff say that the latest opinion polls speak for themselves – 70% of Americans think the President is doing a good job.*

3 **sth is spoken for**

if something is spoken for, someone else has already arranged to have it or use it: *Sorry, this table's already spoken for.* | *Dealers say that most of the new Porsches are already spoken for.*

4 **sb is spoken for**

if someone is spoken for, they already have a boyfriend or girlfriend, husband or wife: *All the good-looking young men were already spoken for.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be single, be unattached**

5 **(you can) speak for yourself**

spoken used when you want to strongly disagree with someone and say that you definitely do not have the same feelings or opinions as they do: *Speak for yourself. I don't have that kind of problem.*

6 **let** *sb* **speak for himself/herself etc**

to let someone say what their opinion about something is, without having someone else to say it for them: *I'll bring Mr Power in and let him speak for himself.*

7 **speaking for myself**

spoken used before you say what your opinion about something is: *Speaking for myself, I can't think of anything more boring!*

* SIMILAR TO: **in my opinion**

8 **I can't speak for** *sth*

spoken used to say that you cannot be sure that something is always true, or that it is also true about other places or things: *I can't speak for all the hotels in the region, but generally the prices are very reasonable.*

speak of

1 **speak of** *sth*

literary to have qualities which make you think of something else: *He wanted something that spoke of spring, that made people feel there was a celebration going on.* | *a smell which spoke of rocks and grease and the harbour at low tide*

* SIMILAR TO: **evoke**

2 **speak of** *sth*

formal to show clearly that something is true or exists: *The decision to cancel the project speaks of a lack of confidence in the boardroom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **indicate**

speak out

speak out ✕

to express your opinions publicly, especially to say that you disagree with something, or to criticize or oppose someone: *People lived in constant fear of the secret police, and no one dared to speak out in case they were arrested.*

+ against *He was one of the few politicians who had the courage to speak out against the war in Vietnam.* | *The paper spoke out recently against the arrest of Palestinian editor Maher al-Alami.*

outspoken ADJ
talking publicly about your opinions, especially to say that you strongly disagree with something or to strongly criticize someone, even though this may offend or annoy some people: *Chomo has been an outspoken critic of the welfare measure that President Clinton recently signed.*

speak up

1 **speak up!** USUALLY IN COMMANDS

to begin to speak more loudly: *You must speak up! I'm a little deaf!*

2 **speak up**

to express your opinions freely, especially to support or defend someone, or protest about something: *The Catholic church has been very active in speaking up on behalf of disadvantaged Americans. | The victim is often afraid to speak up, for fear of sounding like a fool.*

+ for *The FBI knew I was innocent. But they never spoke up for me at the trial.*

SPEED

sped, sped, speeding

speed by

speed by

if time speeds by, it seems to pass very quickly: *The weeks sped by and soon it was time to go back to school.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fly by**

speed off

speed off

to leave somewhere quickly or suddenly – used especially about cars or other vehicles: *She watched them as they sped off into the night.*

speed up

speed up | **speed up** *sth*

speed *sth* **up**

to move, work, or happen more quickly, or make something do this: *You'd better speed up Martin, or we'll never get this done. | Genetic engineering techniques will speed up the development process for many vaccines. | I'm sorry about the delay. I'll try and speed things up a bit.*

● OPPOSITE: **slow down**

SPELL

spelt especially BrE spelled especially AmE,
spelt especially BrE spelled especially AmE, spelling

spell out

1 **spell out** | **spell** *sth* **out**

to explain something clearly and in detail: *The president publicly spelled out his ideas about economic reform in a speech in Houston. | Television companies had to run commercials spelling out the dangers of smoking. | What they told you wasn't true, Winston. How many times do I have to spell it out for you?*

+ how/when/who etc *a document that spells out how the center will be managed and operated*

2 **spell out** *sth* | **spell** *sth* **out**

to say the letters of a word separately in their correct order, for example so that someone can understand them more clearly: *Jan spelled out his name, "F-A-H-E-R-T-Y".*

SPEW

spewed, spewed, spewing

spew out

spew out *sth* | **spew** *sth* **out**

spew out

to send out something in large quantities, or to come out of something in large quantities: *The four great chimneys to his left spewed out their fumes over the town. | an evil organization spewing out lies and propaganda | Tickertape was spewing out of the teleprinter.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pour out**

spew up

spew up | **spew up** *sth* | **spew** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to vomit (=food comes up from your stomach and out of your mouth, because you feel ill or have drunk too much alcohol) *He got so drunk he spewed up all over the shiny boots of his commanding officer.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **throw up** *informal*, **be sick, vomit**

SPICE

spiced, spiced, spicing

spice up

spice up *sth* | **spice** *sth* **up**

to make something more interesting or exciting: *Teacher Joan Flax believes that adding real-life drama can spice up a history lesson. | 101 ways to spice up your love life*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **liven up, pep up**

SPIFF

spiff

spiff up *sth/sb* | **spiff** *sth/sb* **up** | **spiff up**

AmE informal to improve someone or something by making them look cleaner or more attractive: *Christine spent an hour spiffing herself up before her date with Robert on Friday night. | The students worked together to spiff up their school.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **spruce up**

S

SPILL

spilled also *spilt* *especially BrE*, *spilled* also *spilt* *especially BrE*, *spilling*

spill out

1 **spill out**

if something spills out of a container, it comes out of it or pours out of it, usually by accident and in an untidy way: *Some clothes had spilled out of her suitcase.* | *Wine spilled out in a small pool, red and dark, like a bloodstain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour out**

2 **spill out**

if people spill out of a place, they come out in large numbers, usually in a disorganized way: *After the concert ended, the audience began spilling out onto the road,* | *A coach-load of tourists spilled out and hurried to the cliff-top to admire the view.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour out**

3 **spill out** *sth* | **spill** *sth* **out** | **spill out**

if you spill out something or it spills out, you suddenly start to talk about it – use this especially about something that was secret or that was upsetting you: *American TV shows are full of people spilling out details of their private lives.* | *Christina put a motherly arm around her shoulder, and the whole story came spilling out.*

spill over

1 **spill over**

if something in a container spills over, it pours over the edge, usually because the container is too full: *Make sure that the milk doesn't spill over.* | *The beer rose up the glass and began to spill over.*

2 **spill over**

if a problem or a bad situation spills over, it spreads and starts to affect other places, people etc

+ into *The fighting had spilled over into Thailand.* | *The effects of the recession spilled over into almost every aspect of American life.*

spillover N [SINGULAR]
when a situation spreads and affects other people, places etc: *Politicians are worried about the possible spillover if Scotland is given full independence.*

3 **spill over**

to develop into a much worse feeling or situation, so that people become violent or start a war

+ into *Years of hurt and frustration had spilled over into violence.* | *fears that the conflict between the two Superpowers might spill over into a full-scale nuclear war*

S

SPIN

spun, spun, spinning

spin around ALSO spin round *BrE*

spin around/round

to suddenly move quickly around, so that you are facing in a completely different direction: *He spun around in his chair to face me.* | *Someone tapped Davies on the shoulder and he spun round.*

spin off

spin off *sth* | **spin** *sth* **off**

technical to form a separate independent company from parts of an existing company: *IBM intends to spin off its German manufacturing facilities into three subsidiaries.* | *Zeneca, a new drugs firm spun off from ICI*

spin-off N [C]
a company that was formed out of parts of an existing company: *Start-up Networx Inc is a Boeing spin-off.*

● **Spin-off** is usually used as a noun to mean something that develops unexpectedly from something else, especially a useful product that was developed when people were trying to make something else, eg *spin-offs from the US space program in the '60s.* **Spin-off** is also used to mean a television programme, film etc that is based on another one and uses some of the same characters, eg *a spin-off from the series 'Friends'.*

spin out

spin out *sth* | **spin** *sth* **out**

BrE to make something continue for as long as possible, or make food, money etc last for as long as possible: *She'd only prepared the first part of the class, so she tried to spin it out for as long as she could.*

spin round *BrE*

SEE **spin around**

SPIRIT

spirited, spirited, spirting

spirit away

spirit away *sb/sth* | **spirit** *sb/sth* **away**

to take someone or something away quickly and secretly or mysteriously: *After the press conference, the royal couple were spirited away in a big black limousine.*

SPIT

spat, spat, spitting

spit out

1 | **spit out** *sth* | | **spit** *sth* **out** |

to make something come out of your mouth by blowing it, in order to get rid of it: *Rawls spat out a big watermelon seed, which landed somewhere in the corner of the room.*

2 | **spit it out!** |

spoken used to ask someone to tell you something that they seem too frightened or embarrassed to say: *Come on man, spit it out!*

spit up

| **spit up** | | **spit up** *sth* |

AmE if a baby spits up, they bring food or drink up from their stomach out through their mouth: *The baby spat up on my shirt and now I have to have it dry cleaned.*

SPLASH

splashed, splashed, splashing

splash down

| **splash down** |

if a spacecraft splashes down, it lands in the sea. A spacecraft is a vehicle that can travel in space: *The Apollo astronauts are due to splash down in the Pacific Ocean at around 4 pm local time.*

splashdown N [C,U]
when a spacecraft lands in the sea: *The crew managed to make radio contact just before splashdown.*

splash out

| **splash out** |

BrE informal to spend a lot of money on something, especially something expensive which you do not need, but you buy for your own enjoyment: *I feel like splashing out a bit. Let's go to that new French restaurant.*

+ on *Actor John Thaw has splashed out £425,000 on a fourth home for himself and his wife Sheila Hancock.* | *To improve its image, the firm is splashing out $5 million on sponsoring a boat in the round-the-world yacht race.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lash out** *BrE informal*

SPLIT

split, split, splitting

split off

1 | **split off** | | **split off** *sth* | | **split** *sth* **off** |

if part of something splits off, or you split it off, it becomes separated from the rest: *A strange group of white rocks had split off from the cliff.* | *The nationalists want to split Quebec off from the rest of Canada.* | *Work is split off from people's family lives, and it has been so since the start of the Industrial Revolution.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate**

2 | **split off** |

if people split off from a party or organization, they stop being members of it and form a new party or organization: *Some IRA members were unhappy with the agreement, and split off to form the so-called 'Real IRA'.*

+ from *The Social Democrats split off from the Labour Party because of ideological differences.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break away**

3 | **split off** |

to leave the group of people, vehicles etc that you are with and move away from them: *Several of the men split off, leading their dogs up a steep track into the heart of the forest.*

+ from *One plane split off from the others and flew down low over the village.*

split on

| **split on** *sb* |

BrE informal to tell someone in authority, for example a teacher, that someone has done something wrong: *Don't worry. Robert's reliable, he won't split on us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell on, tattle on** *AmE informal*

split up

1 | **split up** *sth* | | **split** *sth* **up** | | **split up** |

to divide something into different parts or groups, or to separate into different parts or groups: *"None of us believed that it was right to split up the company," said Bill Toner.* | *They all split up and went their own separate ways.* | *This process causes the carbon and oxygen molecules to split up.*

+ into *Many of the larger houses are being split up into flats.* | *Our teacher split us up into three groups.*

split up sth between/among sb (=divide something so that each member of a group has part of it) *The former Soviet armed forces were split up between the new states.*

* SIMILAR TO: **divide up, divvy up** *AmE informal*

2 | **split up** |

if two people split up, they end their romantic relationship or marriage: *I think it will be a real shame if Mick and Jerry do split up.* | *When her parents split up, she went off to live with her mother.*

S

+ **with** *Comedian Freddie Starr is splitting up with his wife after 18 years of marriage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break up**

3 **split up**

if a band or group splits up, they stop performing or working together, usually because of an argument: *Why do you think the Beatles split up? Was it because of a personality clash between John and Paul?* | *Rumours have been flying around Manchester that the band are about to split up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break up**

SPOIL

be spoiling for

be spoiling for a fight/for trouble

to want to have a fight or argument with someone and try to make this happen: *Williams shouted "Are you saying I don't know how to do my job?" He was obviously spoiling for a fight.*

S

SPONGE

sponged, sponged, sponging

sponge down

sponge down *sth/sb*

sponge *sth/sb* **down**

to wipe something or someone with a sponge in order to clean them. A sponge is a piece of a soft substance which has a lot of holes and takes in water very easily: *Madeleine sponged down all the windows and cleaned off all the grime.* | *One of the nurses was sponging him down in bed.*

sponge off/on

sponge off/on *sb*

to get money or other things from other people without paying them back or doing anything for them in return – used to show disapproval: *Seb's parents were very rich, and he just sponged off them. He never had to do a day's work in his life.* | *They're just sponging off the backs of ordinary taxpayers! I don't see why I should give them any of my money.*

SPOON

spooned, spooned, spooning

spoon out

spoon out *sth* **spoon** *sth* **out**

to use a spoon to put food onto someone's dish: *The waiter was standing there spooning out peas.* | *Instead of bringing the curry through, they spooned it out in the kitchen.*

SPOUT

spouted, spouted, spouting

spout on/off

spout on/off

informal to talk a lot about something in a boring way, especially without thinking about what you are saying, or without knowing a lot about the subject

+ **about** *a boring old man who kept spouting on about how young people have no sense of duty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** *informal*, **bang on** *AmE informal*

SPRAWL

sprawled, sprawled, sprawling

be sprawled out

be sprawled out

to be sitting or lying with your arms or legs stretched out in a very relaxed or careless way: *They lay there sprawled out on the sidewalk, surrounded by empty bottles of cheap whiskey.* | *Ted was asleep, legs sprawled out, head thrown back, mouth wide open.*

sprawl out (=move into a position in which you are sprawled out) *He came in and sprawled out on the sofa in front of the TV.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stretch out**

SPREAD

spread, spread, spreading

spread out

1 **spread out** *sth* **spread** *sth* **out**

to open something that is folded and lay it flat on a surface: *Sandison spread out the map on the table and studied it closely.* | *He spread a towel out on the sand and sat down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay out**

2 **spread out** *sth* **spread** *sth* **out**

to arrange a group of things on a surface, so that you can look at them or use them: *They put a rug down on the ground and spread all the food out on it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay out**

3 **spread out/be spread out**

to cover a large area – use this especially about a city, area of land etc that you are looking at from above: *The lights of the city spread out in front of them.* | *The wide sweep of the Bay of Naples spread out far below us.* | *Then Napoleon turned and surveyed the camp spread out before him.*

4 **be spread out**

if a group of people or things are spread out, they cover a wide area and are far apart from each other: *Books and records were spread out all over the floor.* | *In many African countries the population is spread out over a huge area.*

5 **spread out** *sth* **spread** *sth* **out**

to move your arms, legs, fingers etc, and stretch them so that there is a wide space between them

spread out your arms/legs/fingers etc *Diane leant back and spread out her arms along the back of the sofa.* | *The officer made him spread his legs out, then searched through his pockets to see if he was carrying a weapon.*

spread out its wings *The eagle spread out its wings and soared down into the valley below.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stretch out**

6 **spread out**

if a group of people spread out, they move apart from each other so that they cover a wider area: *He ordered his men to spread out and search the surrounding fields.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fan out**

7 **spread out** **spread out** *sth* **spread** *sth* **out**

to move outwards and cover a wide area, or to make something do this: *Shock waves spread out from the epicenter of the earthquake.* | *Spread out the pastry so that it covers all of the bottom of the dish.*

8 **spread out** *sth* **spread** *sth* **out**

to arrange for something to happen or be done in stages over a period of time

+ over *You can spread out the cost over a year and pay a little each month.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stagger**

9 **spread out**

to stretch out your body so that it covers a wide area, or move your things so that they cover a wide area, especially so that you feel you have plenty of space: *The good thing about having a big house is that it gives you more room to spread out.*

10 **spread out**

if a period of time spreads out in front of you, you can imagine what it will be like and you know what will happen: *A bright future spread out before him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lie ahead**

spread over

spread *sth* **over** *sth*

to arrange for something to happen or be done in stages over a period of time: *The tax increases will be spread over the next three years.* | *The Wimbledon championships are spread over two weeks.*

SPRING

sprang, sprung, springing

spring back

spring back

if something that has been moved, pressed or stretched springs back, it quickly returns to its original position or shape: *The branch sprang back and hit him in the face.* | *Bake the cake for 45 minutes, or until the top springs back when touched lightly in the centre.*

spring for

spring for *sth*

AmE informal to pay for something: *I'll spring for a pizza if you go pick it up.*

S

spring from

1 **spring from** *sth*

to come from or be caused by something: *Many of her ideas spring from personal experience.* | *Marshall said his interest in electronics sprang from his teenage years as a radio operator in Pasedena.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from, originate (from)** *BrE*

2 **where did you/he/she etc spring from?**

spoken used to show surprise when you suddenly see someone that you thought was somewhere else: *Where did you spring from, Jennifer? I thought you had already left.*

spring on

1 **spring** *sth* **on** *sb*

to tell someone something that shocks or surprises them: *The government sprung a surprise on investors when it lowered interest rates.* | *Her family doesn't know about her engagement yet. She plans to spring it on them this weekend.*

2 **spring** *sth* **on** *sb*

to suddenly do something or give someone something that shocks or surprises them: *Troops were forced to flee when rebels sprang an ambush on them.*

spring up

1 **spring up**

to suddenly appear or start to exist: *Out-of-town shopping centres seem to be springing up everywhere these days. | Beautiful flowers had sprung up on the barren hillside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sprout up**

2 **spring up**

to stand up suddenly: *Major Sanderson sprang up with joy when he heard that his daughter was safe.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jump up**

SPROUT

sprouted, sprouted, sprouting

sprout up

sprout up

to suddenly appear or start to exist, especially in large numbers: *Businesses and factories have sprouted up on both sides of the border. | A whole new generation of music sprouted up, with bands like Catatonia and Stereophonics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spring up**

S

SPRUCE

spruced, spruced, sprucing

spruce up

spruce up **spruce up** *sth*

spruce *sth* **up**

to make yourself or something look tidier and more attractive: *Paul went upstairs to spruce up a bit before dinner. | Wealthier people moved into the area, and spruced up the old buildings and storefronts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smarten up**

SPUR

spurred, spurred, spurring

spur on

spur *sb* **on**

to encourage someone to try harder in order to succeed: *The course was really tough, but the desire to make her family proud of her spurred her on.*

spur sb on to do sth *Recent discoveries are spurring us on to find a better treatment for the disease.*

* SIMILAR TO: **urge on**

SPUTTER

sputtered, sputtered, sputtering

sputter out

sputter out

if an engine or machine sputters out, it makes a series of quick short sounds and gradually stops working: *The engine sputtered out, and Melinda steered the car to the side of the road.*

SPY

spied, spied, spied

spy on/upon

● **Spy upon** is more formal than **spy on** and is mostly used in writing.

spy on/upon *sb/sth*

to watch someone or something secretly in order to get more information about them: *Carey spied on US diplomats and military officials in Berlin. | 'Harriet the Spy' is a popular children's novel about an 11-year-old girl who spies on her friends and neighbours.*

spy out

1 **spy out** *sth*

to get more information about something by going and looking at it, often secretly: *The soldiers immediately assumed that the men were there to spy out their defenses. | In 1846, Young sent 148 people to spy out the Salt Lake region.*

2 **spy out** *sb/sth*

to find a particular king of person or thing, after looking for them: *James is really good at spying out talented new musicians.*

spy upon

SEE **spy on/upon**

SQUARE

squared, squared, squaring

square away

square *sth* **away** USUALLY PASSIVE

AmE to finish or make something ready, especially by adding final details: *Peter needs another day to get things squared away at home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **finish off** *especially BrE*

square off

square off

AmE to fight or play against someone in a sport: *Arizona and Stanford square off in the Rose Bowl on Sunday.*

+ against *A few hundred youths squared off against police at the Alma bridge.*

square up

1 **square up**

informal to pay someone money that you owe them, especially after discussing together how much you owe: *I'll pay for the drinks now and we can square up later.*

+ with *Sandy had better square up with the credit card company soon.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **settle up**

2 **square up**

BrE to prepare to fight or compete with someone: *Watch Channel Five tonight as Mike Tyson squares up to Evander Holyfield.* | *Sixty schools are squaring up to compete in the Northern Schools Cricket Championships.*

square up to

square up to *sb/sth*

BrE informal to deal with a difficult situation or person in a determined way: *Kathleen finally squared up to her brother and refused to lend him any more money.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **face up to**

square with

1a **square with** *sth*

if something such as an action, statement, or idea squares with something else, it seems right or similar when compared with it: *Denise's behaviour squares with her beliefs about animal rights.* | *His story didn't square with the witnesses' testimonies.*

1b **square** *sth* **with** *sth*

if you square two actions, statements, ideas etc with each other, you show that they are right or similar when compared with each other: *How can you square such violent actions with your religious beliefs?*

2 **square** *sth* **with** *sb*

to get someone to allow or agree to something: *I'll take the day off if I can square it with my boss.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **clear**

SQUASH

squashed, squashed, squashing

squash in/into

1 **squash in** **squash into** *sth*

squash yourself in

squash yourself into *sth*

to push yourself into a small space: *He squashed in, sharing the back seat with his mother and sisters.* | *Five of us squashed ourselves into one hotel room to save money.* | *Passengers on the plane squashed into their seats and fastened their seatbelts.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squish in/into** *informal*, **squeeze in/into**

2 **squash** *sth* **in** **squash** *sth* **into** *sth*

to push something into a small space or container: *Is it possible to squash another sweater in your suitcase?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squish in/into** *informal*, **squeeze in/into**

squash up

squash up

to move closer together in order to make space for someone or something else: *Football fans were forced to squash up as a record number of people attended the match.* | *We can get four people on the back seat if you all squash up.*

SQUAT

squatted, squatted, squatting

squat down

squat down

to bend your knees under you and balance close to the ground on your feet: *Omar squatted down to pet the little dog.* | *"Can you count to five, Robbie?" I asked, squatting down next to him.*

SQUEAK

squeak by

squeak by **squeak by** *sb*

AmE to only just succeed in doing something for example passing a test or defeating someone: *My boyfriend scored incredibly high on the exam, but I just squeaked by.* | *The Bears squeaked by the Spartans last season, winning 35–34.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **squeak through**

squeak through

squeak through *sth* **squeak through**

to only just succeed in doing something, for example passing a test or winning something: *Prime Minister Michel Rocard squeaked through a no-confidence vote in parliament.* | *Bradley squeaked through with 51 percent of the vote.*

S

SQUEAL

squealed, squealed, squealing

squeal on

squeal on *sb*

informal to tell someone in authority about something wrong or illegal that another person has done: *"The cops found out about the robbery." "Someone must have squealed on us." | Would you squeal on a friend for smoking marijuana?*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform on, grass on** *BrE informal*

SQUEEZE

squeezed, squeezed, squeezing

squeeze in/into

1 **squeeze in** *sb/sth* **squeeze** *sb/sth* **in**

squeeze *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

to manage to do something or meet someone even though you are very busy or do not have much time: *On Wednesdays Allen can usually squeeze in a round of golf. | She is able to squeeze workouts into her schedule by getting up early in the mornings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit in**

2 **squeeze in** **squeeze in** *sb/sth*

squeeze *sb/sth* **in** **squeeze** *sb/sth* **in** *sth*

squeeze *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

squeeze into *sth*

to push or fit someone or something into a small space: *I think we can squeeze in a couple more people. | We were all squeezed into a tiny room. | In the end, they managed to squeeze the tent into Jan's rucksack. | These jeans are a bit tight but I can still squeeze into them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **squash in/into, squish in/into** *informal*

squeeze out

1 **squeeze out** *sth* **squeeze** *sth* **out**

to get air, liquid, or another substance out of something by pressing it: *Gently squeeze out the juice and seeds from the lemon. | Could you squeeze a little more toothpaste out of the tube?*

2 **squeeze** *sb* **out**

to prevent someone from taking part in a particular activity or business, or from staying in a particular area or job: *Big supermarkets are squeezing out smaller shops who can't offer such low prices. | Hodkinson was squeezed out in the battle for control of the company.*

+ of *Low-income families claim they are being squeezed out of the neighbourhood by high rents.*

* SIMILAR TO: **push out**

3 **squeeze out** *sth* **squeeze** *sth* **out**

to produce or achieve something, especially by using a lot of effort: *The Indians managed to squeeze out a victory in the final minutes of the game.*

squeeze out of

squeeze *sth* **out of** *sth/sb*

to get something that you want from someone or something, especially when there is not much of it or when they do not want to give it to you: *Gannett eventually squeezed $6 million out of the budget to pay for the new building. | Politicians found numerous schemes to squeeze more money out of their constituents.*

SQUIRM

squirmed, squirmed, squirming

squirm out

1 **squirm out**

AmE to only just succeed in escaping from a bad situation

+ of *Edberg squirmed out of every tough situation and managed to win the match.*

2 **squirm out**

AmE to avoid doing something that you do not want to do

+ of *Dan squirmed out of the meeting by claiming he had too much work to do.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get out of**

SQUIRREL

squirreled, squirreled, squirreling

squirrel away

squirrel away *sth* **squirrel** *sth* **away**

to save something and put it in a safe or secret place so that you can use it at a later time: *Hasselhof had several million dollars squirreled away in Swiss bank accounts. | I took the candy and squirreled it away in my bedroom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hoard**

SQUISH

squished, squished, squishing

squish in/into

squish in **squish in** *sb/sth*

squish *sb/sth* **in** **squish** *sb/sth* **in** *sth*

squish into *sth* **squish** *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

informal to push or fit someone or something into a small space: *The kids will all squish*

S

into the old building until a new school can be built. | Can you squish my jacket in your bag? | It's pretty crowded in the back seat, but I think we can squish another person in.

* SIMILAR TO: **squash in/into, squeeze in/into**

STACK

stacked, stacked, stacking

stack up

1 **stack up**

to form into a neat pile, or to make something form into a neat pile, by putting things on top of each other: *Stack up the chairs in your classroom before you leave. | Boxes of food were stacked up in the warehouse, ready to be delivered to needy families.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pile up**

2 **stack up**

to gradually increase in number: *Your phone messages really stacked up while you were on vacation. | The bills are stacking up on my desk.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pile up**

3 **stack up**

if planes stack up or are stacked up near an airport, they have to fly around the airport until they are given permission to land: *Bad weather caused dozens of flights to stack up near Kennedy Airport.*

stack-up N [C]
when several planes are flying around an airport waiting for permission to land: *Stack-ups at Heathrow are causing delays for hundreds of travellers.*

4 **stack up**

AmE informal if something stacks up to another thing, it is as good or better than the other thing

+ to/against *Cable operators said satellite TV fails to stack up to cable in some areas.*

how sth stacks up (=whether it is as good as other things of the same kind) *Parents want to know how their children's schools stack up against others.*

* SIMILAR TO: **compare**

5 **stack up**

AmE informal to happen in a particular way: *How did the meeting stack up this afternoon?*

* SIMILAR TO: **go**

6 **sth doesn't stack up**

used to say that something does not make sense: *Why would she abandon her only child? The story just doesn't stack up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up, make sense**

STAFF

staffed, staffed, staffing

staff up

staff up | **staff up** *sth*

especially AmE to increase the number of people working for a company or organization: *The top priority should be to staff up the law enforcement agencies.*

STAKE

staked, staked, staking

stake on

stake *sth* **on** *sth*

to risk losing something that is valuable or important to you if a plan is not successful: *Roberts has staked his political career on his tax proposal. | Microsoft wisely staked its future on the Windows operating system, which became enormously successful.*

stake out

1 **stake out** *sth* | **stake** *sth* **out**

AmE if someone stakes out a building, they watch it to see who is coming and going or what is happening inside: *The man apparently stakes out the check-cashing store and knew when the delivery of cash would be made. | Reporters have staked out her home and are offering $10,000 for an interview.*

stakeout N [C]
AmE when someone watches a building to see who is coming and going or what is happening inside, especially because something illegal is happening there: *Detectives were on stakeout for armed robbers.*

2 **stake out a claim**

to say publicly that you think you have a right to have or own something: *The tribes have both staked out their claim to the territory.*

3 **stake out** *sth* | **stake** *sth* **out**

to mark or enclose an area to show that it belongs to you or that you plan to use it: *We staked out a spot on the beach and sat down on a blanket. | Better stake out a table before it gets any more crowded. | Wayne and Delores staked out the corner of the garden where they planned to grow the flowers.*

4 **stake out** *sth* | **stake** *sth* **out**

formal, especially AmE to publicly explain your opinion on a particular subject: *Both Foley and Mitchell staked out positions that oppose the president's plan. | Coles has staked out his conservative political policies.*

5 **stake out** *sth*

AmE to be successful in a particular area of business: *In three years, they have staked out 30% of the shoe market.*

STAMMER

stammered, stammered, stammering

stammer out

stammer out *sth* | **stammer** *sth* **out**

to say something with difficulty, using a lot of pauses and repeated sounds because you are nervous or because you have a speech problem: *Manson began to stammer out excuses, hoping Kelly would believe him.*

STAMP

stamped, stamped, stamping

stamp on

1 **stamp on** *sb/sth*

informal to use force or authority to quickly stop someone from doing something or to quickly stop something from happening – used especially to show disapproval: *City officials stamped on our plan to develop the land into a shopping mall.* | *Our boss stamped on every suggestion we made, and then decided to cancel the project.*

S

2 **stamp** *sth* **on** *sth*

if you stamp your style or character on something, you influence it in your own personal way: *The two designers have stamped their unique style on the room.* | *Patty's ability to stamp her personality on a piece of music impressed her teachers.*

stamp out

1 **stamp out** *sth* | **stamp** *sth* **out**

to completely get rid of something that is dangerous or that you strongly disapprove of, such as crime or disease: *Police believe they have nearly succeeded in stamping out illegal drugs in the neighbourhood.* | *Haider attacked the Austrian government for failing to stamp out corruption.*

* SIMILAR TO: **eliminate, eradicate**

2 **stamp out flames/a fire**

to stop something from burning by stepping hard on the flames: *After attempting to stamp out the flames, the boy called the fire department.*

3 **stamp out** *sth* | **stamp** *sth* **out**

to make a shape or object by pressing hard on something or using a machine or tool: *The dough is put into a cutter that stamps out 1,048 ravioli at one time.*

STAND

stood, stood, standing

stand around
ALSO **stand about** *BrE*

stand around/about

to stand somewhere and not do anything: *There are lots of young men standing around on street corners, obviously without a job to go to.* | *Photographers were standing around, all hoping to get a picture of Arnold Schwarzenegger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **loiter**

stand against

1 **stand against** *sth*

to oppose a person, organization, plan, decision etc: *Today America is more determined to stand against terrorism, and to bring terrorists to answer for their crimes.*

2 **stand against** *sb*

to compete with someone for a political position: *Republicans are unsure who will stand against the Democratic candidate in November's election.* | *Heseltine said he could not foresee the circumstances in which he would stand against Mrs. Thatcher.*

stand apart

1 **stand apart**

to be different or separate from others of a similar type: *Excellent service will make our company stand apart.*

+ from *The only film that stands apart from all the other war movies is 'Saving Private Ryan'.*

2 **stand apart**

to avoid being involved with other people or their activities: *Finn tends to stand apart and watch as others take control of the board meetings.*

stand aside

1 **stand aside**

to move so that someone can go past you: *Stand aside, please, and let the runners pass.* | *The shopkeeper demanded that we stand aside and not block the entrance to his store.*

* SIMILAR TO: **step aside, move aside**

2 **stand aside**

to decide not to become involved in an argument, fight or difficult situation: *Soldiers stood aside last Sunday when demonstrators broke windows at the French Embassy building.* | *When war broke out in Bosnia, the leader of the European Union asked America to stand aside.*

3 **stand aside**

to leave your job or official position and let someone else have it: *Edgar was pressured to stand aside after the bribery scandal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **step aside, step down**

stand back

1 **stand back**

to move backwards so that you are a short distance away from someone or something: *The artist stood back and admired the painting when he'd finished. | A gunman ordered the receptionist to stand back as he took the money from the drawer.*

+ from *Standing back from the table, Sandy counted the number of people sitting in the room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **step back, move back**

2 **stand back**

to think about a difficult problem or situation in the way a person who is not directly involved would think about it, in order to solve it or understand it better: *I think we should stand back and give this issue some long, careful thought. | Holden was upset that people didn't stand back and truly question the consequences of war.*

* SIMILAR TO: **step back**

3 **stand back**

to decide not to take action or become involved in a situation, even though you or someone else would like you to take action or become involved: *How can people just stand back when so many families need help? | "We can't just stand back and let the fire burn itself out," said a Forestry Service official.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sit by, sit back**

4 **stand back**

if a building stands back from something, it is a short distance from it: *Our house stands back from the road a bit, so you won't be able to see it until you drive up.*

stand between

stand between *sb* **and** *sth*

if something stands between you and something else, it stops you from achieving it or from getting into a situation: *For millions of Americans, Social Security benefits are the only thing standing between them and poverty. | Is the only thing standing between you and a beautiful wedding the fact that you haven't found the person you want to marry?*

stand by

1 **stand by**

to allow something to happen when you should be doing something to try to stop it: *Muldrow stood by and did nothing to stop the robbery. | "I will not stand by and accept the corruption that is destroying Cambodia," Jeldres said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sit by**

bystander N [C]
someone who is in the area where something unexpected happens, and watches instead of becoming involved: *Bystanders watched as a young man threatened to jump from the 110-storey World Trade Center.*

2 **stand by** *sth*

to continue to say that something is definitely true or to do what you said you would do, and not change your mind: *At the news conference, Asbell stood by his story and denied any involvement in the murder. | He stands by his belief that education must change to keep up with society's needs. | The President will probably stand by his earlier decision to appoint Taylor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick by**

3 **stand by** *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

to stay loyal to something, or to continue to give someone help and support when they are in a difficult situation: *Kate and Louie agreed to stand by their son Matt as he recovered from his drug addiction. | Fox has said he stands by his company's work, despite customer complaints.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick by**

● OPPOSITE: **abandon, desert**

4 **stand by**

to be ready to help someone or do something: *Operators are standing by, ready to take your order. | While firefighters stood by, crews dug down near the break and sealed off the gas line.*

stand by to do sth *Buses were standing by to take hotel guests to the airport.*

standby N [C]
something that is ready to be used if needed: *Powdered milk is a good standby for emergencies.*

stand down

1 **stand down**

to agree to leave your job or official position, or stop trying to be elected, so that someone else can do it instead: *I'm prepared to stand down in favour of another candidate. | Powell's announcement that she would stand down from her seat on the directors' board shocked shareholders.*

* SIMILAR TO: **step down**

2 **stand down**

if someone who has been answering questions in a court of law stands down, they stop answering questions and leave the place

S

where they have to stand to answer them: *Danielle stood down, clearly upset by the questions the lawyers had asked her.*

3 **stand** *sb* **down** **stand down**

to officially tell a soldier or group of soldiers that they are no longer needed for duty, or to stop being on duty: *The last American Air Force Squadron at the airbase stands down from active duty today.* | *Allied forces in the Gulf have been stood down.*

stand for

1 **stand for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to represent a word, phrase, or idea: *What does 'UNHCR' stand for?* | *Schools are working with a network called SHAPE, which stands for 'Shaping Health As Partners in Education'.* | *For centuries in literature, the swan has stood for purity and virtue.*

2 **stand for** *sth*

to support a particular set of ideas, principles, or values – used especially about political leaders or groups: *Martin Luther King stood for fairness and racial equality.* | *Our group stands for justice, and we want citizens to realize the discrimination minorities face every day.*

3 **not stand for** *sth*

to refuse to accept a situation without complaining or trying to change it: *You can't ban cars from the city centre – people wouldn't stand for it.*

sb won't/wouldn't stand for sth *"I won't stand for swearing in my house," said Peggy indignantly.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put up with, tolerate**

4 **stand for** *sth*

to try to be elected for a political position or a position in an organization: *Robertson and Young decided not to stand for positions on the board of directors.* | *Senator Finkle must stand for election again in 2002.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **run for**

stand in

stand in

to do someone else's job for a short period of time

+ for *Quarterback Jeff Kemp stood in for Jim McMahon, who suffered four broken ribs last Sunday.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fill in**

stand-in N [C]
someone who does another person's job for a short period of time, or who does something instead of someone: *A stand-in accepted Gorbachev's Peace Prize medal for him.*

S

stand off

stand off *sb/sth*

AmE to prevent someone or something from coming close enough to attack you: *The gunman stood off police for about two hours before surrendering.*

stand-off N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
a situation in which neither side in a battle or argument can get an advantage: *Police surrounded the building and a stand-off continued until shortly before 7 a.m.*

stand out

1 **stand out**

to be very easy to see or notice: *The ads are meant to stand out and catch people's attention.* | *They painted the door blue, to make it stand out.* | *One man in a tweed jacket and purple tie stood out in a crowd of people in shorts and T-shirts.*

+ against *Theresa's short, bleached blond hair stands out against her dark clothing.*

stand out a mile *spoken* (=used to emphasize that something stands out) *Of course he's rich – it stands out a mile!*

stands out like a sore thumb (=someone or something is very easy to notice because they are different from the people or things around them) *To many residents, the statue stands out like a sore thumb.*

2 **stand out**

to be clearly better than other similar things or people: *There are some interesting paintings in the exhibition, but one artist's work really stands out.*

+ as *Darren always stood out as an athlete.*

+ among *One performer who stood out among the rest was the 16-year-old boy from Montgomery, Alabama.*

+ from *Her experience in office management made Holly stand out from 50 other qualified candidates.*

outstanding ADJ
better than other similar things or people: *What do you see as your outstanding accomplishment in city government?*

standout N [C]
AmE someone or something that is better than other similar people or things: *The standout at the Fourth Avenue Garden Cafe is the middle-eastern influenced food.*

stand out against

stand out against *sth*

to publicly say that you are strongly opposed to a plan or idea, especially when other people do not support you: *Am I the only person who is willing to stand out against the budget cuts?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **oppose**

stand out for

stand out for *sth*

to continue to demand a particular thing and refuse to accept anything else: *The workers' union stands out for fair labour laws and health insurance for all employees.*

stand over

stand over *sb*

to stand very close to someone and watch as they do something, especially to make sure they finish it or do it correctly: *I can't work with you standing over me like that.* | *Mom always stood over us, making sure we ate everything on our plates.*

stand round *BrE*

SEE **stand around**

stand to

stand to *sb/sth* **stand** *sb/sth* **to**

stand to

BrE to order a soldier to move into a position so that they are ready for action, or to move into this position: *Reports of a German advance came through, and we were ordered to stand to.*

stand together

stand together

if people or groups stand together, they are loyal to each other and work together to achieve the same things: *Politicians from all parties have promised to stand together and protect our national security.* | *Today the United States and Czechoslovakia stand together, united in their pursuit of the democratic ideal.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stick together**

stand up

1 **stand up**

to move into a standing position after you have been sitting or lying down: *A drunken fan sitting near me suddenly stood up and started yelling at the pitcher.* | *When Regaldo stood up and moved toward the stage, security guards reached out to stop him.* | *I stood up and started putting on my coat "Thanks for the tea. I'll give you a call next week."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get up**

● OPPOSITE: **sit down**

2 **stand** *sb* **up**

to fail to meet someone after promising that you would meet them, especially someone that you were starting a romantic relationship with: *It's not like Gina to just stand us up and not call.* | *Tommy had been inside waiting and wondering why his date had stood him up.* | *Looks like I've been stood up again.*

3 **stand up**

if something stands up, it is proved to be true or correct, when people examine it closely or try to question it

+ under *The judge's decision is expected to stand up very well under any appeal the defendants try to make.*

stand up in court (=be successfully proved in a court of law) *Is there enough evidence to make the accusations stand up in court?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold up**

4 **stand up**

to stay healthy in a difficult environment or stay in good condition after being used a lot: *The trees stood up pretty well during the snowstorms this winter.*

5 **stand up and be counted**

to clearly say what you think about something, even though doing this could be dangerous or cause trouble for you – used when saying that everyone in a group should do this: *If we don't stand up and be counted, we're going to suffer the consequences.*

stand up for

stand up for *sb/sth*

to support or defend a person, idea, or principle when they are being attacked or criticized: *"We're here standing up for freedom against our oppressors," one demonstrator declared.* | *Friends and colleagues stood up for O'Connell when the legal board questioned her professional ethics.*

stand up for yourself *You have to stand up for yourself and refuse to let your employer take advantage of you.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **defend, stick up for**

stand up to

1 **stand up to** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be strong enough not to be harmed or changed by something: *How well will this light-coloured carpet stand up to dirt and spills?* | *Some dishes cannot stand up to high oven temperatures.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **withstand**

2 **stand up to** *sb/sth*

to defend yourself and refuse to let a powerful person or organization treat you badly or unfairly: *Standing up to an abusive boss can be risky.* | *Mrs. Thatcher was the first British leader to stand up to the Unions.* | *It took a lot of courage for one man to stand up to the tobacco industry.*

S

3 **stand up to scrutiny/inspection**

formal if something stands up to scrutiny or inspection, it remains true, correct, or believable even when people examine it closely: *Low's studies stood up to close scrutiny from experts in the field.*

STARE

stared, stared, staring

stare down *AmE*
ALSO **stare out** *BrE*

1 **stare *sb* down/out** **stare down/out *sb***

to look into someone's eyes for a long time so that they start to feel uncomfortable and look away from you: *Mrs. Finch stared me down, fearless and severe.* | *Although he was frightened, Fenton stood tall and stared out the gunmen.*

2 **stare down *sth*** **stare *sth* down**

AmE formal to deal with a difficult situation or opponent in a determined and successful way: *Prisoners of war in Vietnam stared down death for seven years.* | *Ryutaro Hashimoto, the man who stared down the United States in last year's car trade dispute, was elected Prime Minister of Japan.*

S

START

started, started, starting

start back

1 **start back**

to begin the journey back to the place where you started from: *Shouldn't you start back before it gets dark?*

+ to *As they start back to the cabin, Gary realizes his keys are missing.* | *We waved goodbye to Uncle Rick and started back to the village.*

2 **start back**

to suddenly move backwards away from something because you are frightened or surprised: *She started back as the mouse ran across the kitchen floor.*

start for

start for *sth*

to begin going to a particular place: *"I've got to go," Laura said, starting for the door.* | *Without hesitation, they climbed into the car and started for the sea.*

start in

1 **start in**

AmE to begin criticizing or complaining about someone or something: *Don't start in again, Jeff, or I'll leave right now.*

+ on *Before I knew it, my mother had started in on my wife.*

2 **start in**

AmE to begin eating something

+ on *Marge started in on her seven-layer rum cake.*

start in on

start in on *sth*

AmE to begin doing or dealing with something: *Julia starts in on the assignment without asking questions.* | *When I arrived at work, Kent had already started in on our project.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, start**

start off

1 **start off** **start off *sth*** **start *sth* off**

to begin doing something in a particular way

start off (sth) by doing sth *I'd like to start off by thanking my friends and family who have supported me during this difficult time.* | *The Ducks started off the season by defeating Washington State and Texas Tech.*

start off (sth) with sth *Start your weekend off with a gourmet dinner and a bottle of California's finest wine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, kick off** *informal*

2 **start off**

to begin your life or career in a particular way: *How sad for a child to start off in life with such a cruel father and a weak mother.*

+ as *Following her own dreams, she started off as an English teacher and later became a writer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start out**

3 **start off**

to begin in a particular way

+ as *What had started off as a joke soon became a very serious matter.* | *'Dead Ringers' starts off as a black comedy, but ends as a tragedy.*

start off on the right/wrong foot (=begin to do something in a way that is likely to be successful or unsuccessful) *Many political experts say that the Clinton presidency started off on the wrong foot during the first six months.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start out**

4 **start off**

to begin a journey, or to begin moving in a particular direction: *Quinn insisted on starting off at 6:00 so we would reach Santa Fe before dark.* | *The bus started off down the road, leaving Lorene behind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set off, set out**

5 **start** *sb* **off** **start off** *sb*

to help someone begin an activity: *Danielson starts the students off with stretching exercises and some basic drills.*

6 **start off** **start** *sb* **off**

especially BrE to begin laughing or crying a lot, or begin talking a lot about something that you often talk about, or to make someone do this: *Don't mention Tammy's name to Martin – you'll only start him off.*

+ about *Bernice started off about her medical problems, telling us every detail of her knee surgery.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set off**

start on

1 **start on** *sth*

to begin doing something, especially something that needs to be done: *Don't wait until the last minute to get started on your college applications.* | *Let's get started on the campfire before it gets dark.*

2 **start on** *sth*

to begin eating or drinking something, or to begin taking a drug: *My son was 13 when he started on marijuana.* | *"Do you think you should start on another beer?" "You'd better not. You're supposed to be driving us home."*

3 **start** *sb* **on** *sth*

to make someone start doing something regularly, especially because it is good for them: *We started Ellen on solid foods when she was four months old.* | *When I became ill, Dr. Nelson started me on antibiotics.*

4 **start on** *sb*

BrE to begin criticizing someone or complaining to someone about something: *After yelling at me for leaving the kitchen a mess, Mom started on Gary for coming home late.*

+ at *Ray's wife started on at him about how he spends too much time in the pub.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **start in** *AmE*, **lay into** *informal*

start out

1 **start out**

to begin to go somewhere: *We started out at 10 o'clock in the morning, and reached Ambleside by 5 pm.* | *My father and I started out for the church, as we did every week.* | *Before you start out, stock up on drinking water and high-energy snack food.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set off, set out**

2 **start out**

to begin your life or career in a particular way: *Jerry Seinfeld started out on amateur nights at the comedy clubs.*

+ as *Cardoso started out as a singer in small clubs, and later released the hit 'Song of Too Much Love'.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **start off**

3 **start out**

to begin to exist in a particular way: *Starting out with the purchase of six local companies, U.S. Delivery quickly spread across the country.*

+ as *Jose's taco shop originally started out as a fast food take-out restaurant.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **start off**

4 **start out to do** *sth*

to intend to do something from the beginning: *Originally the group started out to make a concert film with backstage clips in it.* | *"I didn't start out to be a model," says Yasmin. "I did it once, and then more work just kept coming."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **set out**

start over

start over **start** *sth* **over**

AmE to do something again from the beginning, especially because you want to do it better: *Slow down and start over, please. I can't understand a word you're saying.* | *Let's start the game over – Brian was cheating.*

S

start up

1 **start up** *sth* **start** *sth* **up** **start up**

to begin to exist and operate, or to make something do this – used about businesses, organizations, programmes, and systems: *Do you have the money to start up your own store?* | *There were rumours that Jesse Jackson had decided to start up a talk show on CNN instead of running for president.* | *At least a half-dozen new high-tech businesses have started up in Scotts Valley since January.*

start-up ADJ
related to beginning and developing a new business, organization, programme etc: *Start-up costs for the new recycling program are expected to be about $60,000.*

start-up N [C]
a small newly developed business, organization, programme etc: *From a start-up in 1982, the company has grown to 2,600 employees and yearly sales of $550 million.*

2 **start up** *sth* **start** *sth* **up**

if you start up an engine, car, machine etc, or it starts up, it begins to work: *Arthur got into the car and started it up without any problems.* | *My computer always takes a long time to start up.*

3 | **start up** | | **start up** *sth* | | **start** *sth* **up** |

if a sound, event, or activity starts up, or someone starts it up, it begins to exist or happen: *When the music started up, Ed was the first person on the dance floor.* | *The hunting season starts up again in August.*

STARVE

starved, starved, starving

starve for

| **be starving for** *sth* | | **be starved for** *sth* |

AmE to want something very much because you have not had it for a long time: *Most depressed patients are starving for human contact.* | *I was away in the Army and always starved for news from home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for, yearn for**

starve into

| **starve** *sb* **into submission/surrender etc** |

to force people to do what you want by preventing them from getting food or money until they do it: *The US navy thought the Japaneses could be starved into submission through a blockade.*

starve of

| **starve** *sb/sth* **of** *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to prevent someone or something from having something that they need, for a long time; with the result that they suffer in some way: *Luther Reynolds was a cold hard man, who had been starved of love as a child.* | *Radio broadcasting has been starved of funds in recent years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deprive of**

starve out

| **starve out** *sb* | | **starve** *sb* **out** |

to force people to leave a place by preventing them from getting food: *The government tried to avoid direct attack by surrounding the island and starving out the rebels.*

STASH

stashed, stashed, stashing

stash away

| **stash** *sth* **away** | | **stash away** *sth* |

informal to put something in a safe or secret place, especially a large amount of money or something valuable: *He had millions of dollars stashed away in a Swiss bank account.* | *Works of art exist to be seen, and should not be stashed away in cellars.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide away, hoard away**

S

STAVE

staved, staved or *stove, staving*

stave in

| **stave** *sth* **in** | | **stave in** *sth* | USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to hit or kick something so violently that it is completely broken or crushed: *The door had been staved in, and torn half off its hinges.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down, smash down**

stave off

| **stave off** *sth* | | **stave** *sth* **off** |

if you stave off something bad or unpleasant, you prevent it from happening or delay it from happening: *Nowadays there are various ways to stave off the effects of ageing.* | *We must get food and medical supplies to the area immediately if we want to stave off a human catastrophe.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prevent, avert** *formal*

STAY

stayed, stayed, staying

stay away

1 | **stay away** |

to deliberately not go to a place: *During the strike up to 90% of the workers were reported to have stayed away.*

+ from *Local authorities have warned people to stay away from the river as a health precaution.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep away**

2 | **stay away** | USUALLY IN COMMANDS

to deliberately avoid seeing someone or trying to form a relationship with them: *"I wish you'd just go away," Rachel shouted, "and stay away!"*

+ from *Jack had warned her to stay away from Derek because he couldn't be trusted.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep away**

stay away from

| **stay away from** *sth* |

to avoid doing or getting involved in something, especially something that is not good for you: *I had hoped that my children would stay away from acting as a profession.* | *After his death, Jonathon's family held a press conference, begging others to stay away from drugs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep away from**

stay behind

| **stay behind** |

to remain somewhere when other people

have left: *As a punishment, several of the children had to stay behind after school.* | *I stayed behind to prepare my speech while the others went off for the day.*

stay down

1 **stay down**

if food that you have eaten stays down, you are able to eat it and it stays in your stomach instead of coming back up and making you sick: *I've only been giving her liquids – nothing else will stay down.*

2 **stay down** | **stay down** *sth*

BrE if a child stays down at school, he or she has to repeat a year at school, instead of moving up to the next class: *Matt's teacher said that if he didn't improve he might have to stay down next year.*

stay down a class/year *Research has shown that many youngsters with behavioural problems have stayed down a class at least once.*

stay in

stay in

to remain at home, especially in the evening: *Sarah hadn't been out for a long time, preferring to stay in and look after Bradley.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop in**

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

stay off

1 **stay off** *sth* | **stay off**

BrE to not go to school or work, especially because you are ill: *You don't look well at all – I think you'd better stay off and go back to bed.*

stay off school/work *When my mother came out of hospital, she still had to stay off work for two or three weeks.*

2 **stay off** *sth* | **stay off**

to not drink, eat, or take something that is bad for you, for example alcohol or drugs: *If you are expecting a baby, the best advice is to stay off alcohol altogether.* | *He's trying very hard to stay off drugs now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep off**

3 **stay off**

if weight stays off after you have succeeded in losing it, you do not get fatter and heavier again: *I can lose weight quite easily, but it never stays off.*

4 **stay off** *sth*

to avoid talking about a particular subject, especially because it might upset someone: *I think we'd better try and stay off politics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep off** *especially BrE*

stay on

1 **stay on**

to stay in a place longer than other people or longer than you planned: *Why don't you stay on and have dinner with us, if you're not in any hurry?* | *Lesley decided to stay on in Greece and try to find a teaching job.*

2 **stay on**

to continue working for longer than expected or planned, either in your usual job or in a different one: *James's contract was finished, but he agreed to stay on for a further six months.*

+ as *Everyone was pleased that Andrew Stavenger was staying on as managing director of the company.*

3 **stay on**

BrE to continue to study at school or university instead of leaving to get a job: *I wish I'd stayed on and gone to university but my family didn't encourage it.*

stay out

1 **stay out**

to not come home at night, or to come home late, especially when someone is expecting you: *Phil had never stayed out without phoning me before, so I was really worried.* | *At home there were always rows if Lisa stayed out late with her friends.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop out** BrE *informal*

● OPPOSITE: **stay in**

2 **stay out (on strike)**

if workers stay out, they continue to refuse to work because of an argument with their employer about pay, working conditions etc: *Teachers in some places stayed out on strike for several weeks.*

● COMPARE: **come out** BrE

stay out of

stay out of *sth*

to not become involved in a situation, activity, discussion etc: *This is a very unpleasant business, and if I were you I'd stay out of it.* | *Stephen had always made it one of his goals to stay out of debt and never borrow money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep out of, steer clear of**

stay over

stay over

to spend the night at someone else's house instead of going home: *We were all invited to bring sleeping bags and stay over after the party.* | *I'm staying over at a friend's house tonight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sleep over**

S

stay up

stay up

to go to bed later than usual

stay up late *It was Saturday night and we'd decided to stay up late and watch the horror movie on TV.*

stay up all night (=not go to bed at night at all) *The essay was due in the next day, and I had to stay up all night to finish it.*

stay with

stay with

to continue to use, do, have etc a particular thing, instead of stopping or changing to something new: *It's a very long book but stay with it – it's really worth reading.* | *It's important to stay with a fitness programme long enough to feel the benefits of it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick with**

STEADY

S

steady on

1 **steady on!**

BrE informal used to tell someone that what they are saying is too extreme, especially when they are criticizing someone or something: *Steady on, Marc! You're talking about my best friend, you know.* | *Hey, steady on! This is a public meeting.*

2 **steady on!**

BrE informal used to tell someone that they should do something more slowly and steadily: *"Steady on, mate," Billy shouted, "that beer has to last all evening!"*

* SIMILAR TO: **slow down**

STEAL

stole, stolen, stealing

steal away

1 **steal away**

to leave a place quietly, so that no one will notice you or try to stop you: *Katherine listened to this conversation for a few minutes, before stealing away back to her bedroom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slip away, slip off, slope off**

2 **steal away** *sth/sb* **steal** *sth/sb* **away**

to take something or someone away, especially in a quiet, secret way: *She was terrified that someone might try to steal her baby away.*

steal over

1 **steal over** *sb*

literary if a feeling steals over you, you gradually feel it more and more: *When he began to sing, I felt a warm deep pleasure steal over me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over**

2 **steal over** *sb's* **face**

literary if an expression steals over someone's face, it gradually becomes more and more noticeable: *Freddie stared at her, watching an expression of contempt steal over her face.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over sb's face**

3 **steal over** *sth*

literary if sound or light steals over a place, you gradually hear or see it more and more: *The first rays of daylight stole over the mountains.*

steal up

steal up

to move quietly towards someone or something until you are very near them: *a leopard stealing up in silence through the darkness*

+ on *Carrie had stolen up on him from behind and thrown her arms round his neck.*

STEAM

steamed, steamed, steaming

steam off

steam off *sth* **steam** *sth* **off**

to use steam to remove something that is stuck onto a surface, especially a stamp from an envelope: *I used to steam off stamps that came from abroad, so that I could trade them for others.*

steam up

1 **steam up/get steamed up**

if a glass surface steams up or gets steamed up, it becomes covered with steam so that you cannot see anything through it: *It was so hot inside that my glasses began to steam up.*

be steamed up *I don't know what they were doing in the car, but the windows were all steamed up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mist up, fog up**

2 **get steamed up**

BrE informal to become very annoyed, angry, or excited about something: *There's no point in getting steamed up – there's nothing we can do.*

be steamed up *Some of the nurses at the hospital were really steamed up about the news.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get steamed** *AmE informal*

STEEP

be steeped in

be steeped in *sth*

if something or someone is steeped in a particular quality, type of behaviour etc, they have been so strongly influenced or affected by it that it has become part of them: *Children in the West are growing up in a culture steeped in sex, violence and drug abuse.*

be steeped in history/tradition *Oxford is a beautiful city, steeped in history and tradition.*

STEER

steered, steered, steering

steer away from

steer away from *sth/sb*

to avoid talking about a particular subject or becoming involved with someone or something: *As a writer, she preferred to steer away from political messages.* | *Linda decided that in future she was going to steer away from musicians and artists.*

* SIMILAR TO: **steer clear of**

STEM

stemmed, stemmed, stemming

stem from

stem from *sth*

to develop as a result of something: *Many of the problems stemmed from a lack of communication between managers and executives.*

stem from the fact that *His depression stemmed from the fact that he had never really got over his father's death.*

STEP

stepped, stepped, stepping

step aside

step aside

to leave your job or an official position, especially so that someone else can do it instead of you: *Many people felt that the old King should step aside and give his son a chance.* | *Ed Taylo, President of Pencom Software, has stepped aside to make way for someone younger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **step down, stand down**

step back

step back

to think about a problem or a situation in a new way, especially with less emotion, so that you are able to understand it and deal with it better: *It's not always easy to step back when it's your own family involved.*

+ from *I think we need to step back from the situation and work out why the company has failed to perform well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand back**

step down

step down

to leave an important job or official position, especially so that someone else can do it instead of you: *In 1990 the President announced that he was stepping down as party leader.*

+ from *Vice chairman Alan Binder said that he would step down from the central bank when his present contract expired.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand down, step aside**

step forward

step forward

to offer to help: *Many volunteers stepped forward to provide the necessary support.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come forward**

S

step in

step in

to try to help or stop the trouble when a situation is difficult or there is an argument: *Gary stepped in to calm things down between the boys.* | *Compaq computer corporation stepped in to provide Connor with $12 million in start-up funding.*

* SIMILAR TO: **intervene** *formal*

step on

step on it ALSO **step on the gas** *AmE*

informal to hurry and drive faster – used especially when telling someone to drive faster: *If you don't step on it, we'll miss the plane!*

step out

1 **step out**

to go out for a short time: *I just stepped out to have a cigarette.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nip out** *BrE*, **pop out** *BrE*

2 **step out**

to appear in public looking attractive in the clothes you are wearing: *All eyes were on the Princess last night as she stepped out in a stunning wrap-around dress.*

step out in style *Leave your faded jeans in a drawer if you're planning to step out in style this spring.*

3 **step out**

BrE old-fashioned to have someone as your boyfriend or girlfriend, and spend a lot of time with them

+ with *Michael Wrighton, the film director, is stepping out with actress Jenny Seaman.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go out**

step up

1 **step up** *sth* **step** *sth* **up**

to increase the amount of effort, pressure etc, or increase the speed of something: *In the second half, United stepped up the pressure and took the lead.* | *The government is stepping up its efforts to encourage people to continue their education.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **increase**

2 **step up (to the plate)**

AmE to agree to help someone or take responsibility for doing something: *People will have to step up if they want a crime prevention program in their neighbourhood.* | *It is easier to criticize others than to step up to the plate yourself.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **help out**

3 **Step right up!**

AmE spoken used about a public show or other event, especially an outdoor one, to call people who are passing to come and watch the show or buy things: *Step right up for the Greatest Show on Earth!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **Roll up, roll up!** *BrE*

S

STICK

stuck, stuck, sticking

stick around

1 **stick around**

informal to stay in a place, especially because you are waiting for something: *If you stick around for a while, I'm sure you'll find some sort of job.* | *It looked like there was going to be trouble, but I didn't stick around to watch.*

2 **stick around**

to stay in the same job, or with the same boyfriend or girlfriend: *Few of the girls have any chance of promotion – they don't stick around long enough.* | *What you need is someone you can trust, who you know will stick around because he loves you.*

stick at

1 **stick at** *sth*

to continue to work hard at something, even if it is difficult or unpleasant

stick at it *You'll never be good at anything unless you stick at it.* | *Mark hated the course but he stuck at it, eventually passing his exams with honours.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep at, stick to, persevere** *formal*

2 **stick at** *sth*

to stop at a particular amount or number instead of increasing or decreasing: *The club proposes to stick at around fifty members, which is a manageable size.*

3 **be stuck at** *sth*

to stop at a particular point or level and be unable to make any more progress: *Many of the children had a history of neglect, and were stuck at an early stage of development.* | *The path to becoming a financial director is very difficult, and a lot of people get stuck at a lower level.*

4 **stick at nothing**

informal to be willing to do anything, even if it is illegal, in order to achieve something

+ to do sth *We were dealing with corrupt officials, who would stick at nothing to preserve their privileges.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop at**

stick by

1 **stick by** *sb*

to continue to give support or help to someone when they have got problems or are in trouble: *I promise I'll stick by you, whatever happens.*

stick by sb through thick and thin (=stick by someone whatever happens) *His wife, Alison, was a wonderful woman, who stuck by him through thick and thin.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand by**

● OPPOSITE: **abandon, desert**

2 **stick by** *sth*

to choose not to change a decision, opinion, or statement, because you think it is right, even when other people do not agree: *I made that decision a long time ago, and I intend to stick by it.* | *The Wall Street Journal's London office says that the paper is sticking by its story.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand by**

stick down

stick *sth* **down** **stick down** *sth*

BrE to write something quickly, especially because you are in a hurry or not sure what to do: *Why don't you stick your name down – you can always change your mind later.* | *I had no idea what I was supposed to write, so I just stuck anything down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **jot down, scribble down**

stick in/into

get stuck in/get stuck into *sth*

BrE informal to start doing something with a lot of enthusiasm: *All right, everyone. Roll your sleeves up and get stuck in!* | *By the time I got there I was too exhausted to get stuck into the debate.*

stick on

1 **be stuck on** *sth/sb*

informal to like a particular idea or object so much or be so attracted to one person that you do not want to consider anything or anyone else: *Les is completely stuck on the idea of going to Spain again, but I'd really like a change.* | *She's still really stuck on Kyle.*

get stuck on *Don't get stuck on that house – it's really too expensive for us.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hung up on** *AmE informal*

2 **stick** *sth* **on** *sb*

BrE informal to suggest or prove that someone did something wrong or illegal: *But Mike wasn't even in the country at the time, so they can't stick the robbery on him!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pin on/upon**

stick out

1 **stick out**

if something sticks out, it points outwards or upwards, beyond the end of something: *He'd be quite good-looking if his ears didn't stick out so much.*

+ of *I realized that the boat had hit a log that was sticking out of the water.*

+ from *His hair stuck out from under his cap.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **protrude** *formal*, **jut out**

2 **stick your tongue out/ stick out your tongue**

to push your tongue out of your mouth, especially as a rude sign to someone: *When she asked him to help her, he just stuck out his tongue and laughed.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put your tongue out** *BrE*

3 **stick** *sth* **out** **stick out** *sth*

to push part of your body away from the rest of your body: *If you stand up straight and don't stick your stomach out, you'll look slim.*

4 **stick out**

if a quality or fact sticks out, it is very clear and obvious: *The thing that sticks out is that there are no women involved in the project.*

stick out a mile *BrE spoken* (=used to emphasize that something stands out) *Look, Terry, it sticks out a mile that something's worrying you – what is it?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand out**

5 **stick out like a sore thumb**

if something sticks out like a sore thumb, it is very noticeable because it looks so different to other people or things that are around: *The new building stuck out like a sore thumb.* | *There aren't many foreigners in this part of the country – any stranger sticks out like a sore thumb.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stand out like a sore thumb**

6 **stick** *sth* **out**

to continue doing something that you find difficult or unpleasant for as long as possible or until it is finished

stick it out *I hated law school, but Dad said that I had to stick it out for at least a year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **see out, see through**

7 **stick your neck out**

informal to take a risk by giving your opinions about something when you know you may be wrong or people may disagree: *I quickly realized that it would be better not to stick my neck out in meetings.*

8 **stick out in your mind**

if something or someone sticks out in your mind, you remember them more clearly than any others: *Of all the storms I've seen, that one sticks out in my mind as being the worst.*

S

stick out for

stick out for *sth*

to continue demanding something until you get it, instead of accepting something less or different: *The company offered him a smaller car, but Vic stuck out for the Jaguar.* | *The City of London, which owns the land, stuck out for a rent that was three times the market value.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hold out for**

stick to

1 **stick to** *sth*

to continue doing what you have decided or promised to do, instead of changing to something else: *Watt says he intends to stick to his plan of retiring early next year.* | *Julius never discussed anything with his family; he simply made a decision and then stuck to it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stick with, keep to**

2 **stick to** *sth*

to limit yourself to doing one particular thing or having only a particular amount: *If I have to drive, I always stick to only one glass of wine.* | *George was never ambitious; he was happy to stick to writing and gardening.*

stick to doing sth *It'll be quicker if we stick to using the highways as much as possible.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep to**

3 **stick to the subject/point/facts etc**

to only talk about things you are supposed to talk about, or things that are definite: *Please stick to the point, or we'll never finish the meeting.* | *It's impossible to make any progress if we don't stick to the facts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep to**

4 **stick to your guns**

informal to refuse to change your mind about something even though other people are trying to persuade you that you are wrong: *Amelia stuck to her guns although it made her very unpopular for a while.*

5 **stick to your story**

to not change what you have already said or described and continue to say that it is true: *He's still sticking to his story that he was at home when the crime was committed.*

6 **stick to the rules**

to do exactly what you are expected to do or what is allowed: *Women were expected to stick to the rules – get married, have children, grow old.*

S

7 **stick to your word**

to do exactly what you have promised to do: *Marcia had said she would help, and she was determined to stick to her word.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep your promise**

8 **stick it to** *sb*

AmE informal to make someone suffer, especially by making them pay a lot of money for something: *Stick it to them, Rickey – I think they should give you at least $10 million a season!*

stick together

stick together

if people stick together, they continue to support each other even when they are in a difficult situation: *In the old days families stuck together no matter what happened.* | *When a team loses a game there's a lot of questioning, but you have to stick together and continue to fight.*

stick up

1 **stick up**

if something sticks up, it points upwards or above the surface of something: *Gordon was still in his pyjamas, his hair sticking up at all angles.*

+ out of/through/from *In the river, islands of rock stuck up out of the water.*

2 **stick 'em up!**

spoken used when threatening someone with a gun and telling them to put their hands up in the air: *"Stick 'em up!" yelled Stavros. "You're under arrest."*

* SIMILAR TO: **hands up!**

stick-up N [C]
when someone tries to steal money by threatening people with a gun: *"Put up your hands! This is a stick-up!"*

stick up for

1 **stick up for** *sb*

to defend or support someone, especially when they are being criticized: *Thanks for sticking up for me in front of the boss the other day.*

stick up for yourself *I was determined to be more confident, more able to stick up for myself at work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up for**

2 **stick up for** *sth*

to defend or fight for something that is important: *If a client doesn't agree with you, you must stick up for what you believe, but calmly and intelligently.*

stick with

1 **stick with** *sth*

informal to continue doing or using something as before, instead of changing to something different: *An enormous range of new products is available, but many people prefer to stick with what they know and trust.* | *I learnt to draw with pencil years ago, and I have largely stuck with the same technique.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to**

2 **be stuck with** *sb/sth*

informal to be unable to change or get rid of something or someone: *Now that the new road has been built, we're stuck with heavy traffic coming through the town.*

get stuck with *I got stuck with Sarah's mother for most of the evening.*

3 **stick with** *sth*

informal to continue doing something even though it is difficult or there are problems: *I think I'll stick with the job for another year at least.*

stick with it *The number one problem for so many people is: should I get divorced or stick with it?*

4 **stick with** *sb*

informal to stay close to someone: *If you don't want to get lost, you'd better stick with me.*

5 **stick with** *sb*

informal if something sticks with you, you remember it clearly for a long time: *One thing he said then has stuck with me ever since.*

6 **stick with** *sb*

informal to support someone when they are in a difficult situation or have problems: *I have some close friends who are prepared to stick with me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand by, stick up for**

STING

stung, stung, stinging

sting for

sting *sb* **for** *sth*

informal, especially BrE to charge someone a lot of money for something, especially an unreasonably large amount: *Last time I took my car in for a service, they stung me for about £400.* | *How much did they sting you for?*

STINK

stank, stunk, stinking

stink up

stink up *sth* **stunk** *sth* **up**

AmE informal to play or perform very badly: *The Lakers stunk up their home court and practically handed their game to the Bulls.*

stink up/out

stink up/out *sth* **stink** *sth* **up/out**

informal to fill a place with a very unpleasant smell: *There was some old fish in the bin which had stunk out the whole kitchen.* | *Martin wears these old sandals which really stink the place up.*

STIR

stirred, stirred, stirring

stir in/into

stir in *sth* **stir** *sth* **in**

stir *sth* **into** *sth*

to mix one substance with another, using a spoon to move them around together – use this especially about food: *Add the eggs and then stir in the sugar and dried fruit.* | *Mr Blakey sat at the table stirring sugar into his tea.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mix in**

stir up

1 **stir up** *sth* **stir** *sth* **up**

if someone stirs up trouble or bad feeling between people, they deliberately cause it or encourage it

stir up trouble *The chief minister accused his political opponents of trying to stir up trouble in the state.*

stir things up *He was an unpleasant boy, who used to stir things up with his nasty sly remarks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **provoke, incite** *formal*

2 **stir up** *sth* **stir** *sth* **up**

to cause people to have a particular strong feeling or emotion: *The huge statue of the leader was designed to stir up emotions of awe and respect.* | *News of the murder spread fast, stirring up panic in the neighbourhood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **create** *formal*

3 **stir up** *sth* **stir** *sth* **up**

to make dust, mud, sand etc rise up in the air or in water and move around: *A truck sped past us, stirring up a cloud of dust as it went.* | *The floodwater stirs up mud and clay from the river bed.*

4 **stir up controversy/debate etc**

if something stirs up a controversy or debate, it makes people argue about it or spend a lot of time discussing it: *The report stirred up fierce controversy when it was published last year.*

5 **stir up memories**

to make you remember events in the past, especially from a long time ago: *Seeing Simon again had stirred up so many memories from her youth.*

6 **stir up** *sb* **stir** *sb* **up**

to make someone feel angry about something, often deliberately: *Critics said that the programme was biased and was intended to stir people up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **provoke** *formal*

STITCH

stitched, stitched, stitching

stitch up

1 **stitch up** *sth/sb* **stitch** *sth/sb* **up**

to sew the edges of a wound together, especially after someone has had an operation in hospital: *The nurse cleaned the wound, then the cut was stitched up.* | *Mrs. Garton was very annoyed when she found out she'd been stitched up by a junior doctor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sew up**

2 **stitch up** *sth* **stitch** *sth* **up**

to sew pieces of material together in order to make or repair something: *I've split these trousers – can you stitch them up for me?*

* SIMILAR TO: **sew up**

S

3 | **stitch up** | *sb* | | **stitch** | *sb* | **up** |

BrE informal to make someone seem guilty of a crime by deliberately giving false information to the police or someone else in authority: *You stitched me up, you rat – I got two years for those burglaries and I didn't do them!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **frame, set up** *informal*

stitch-up N [C]
informal when someone deliberately gives false information to make a person seem guilty of a crime: *It was a stitch-up – he didn't do it!*

4 | **stitch up** | *sb* | | **stitch** | *sb* | **up** | USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to deceive someone, especially in order to gain money from them: *We were really stitched up – we trusted him with our savings and we lost the lot!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swindle, cheat**

5 | **stitch up** | *sth* | | **stitch** | *sth* | **up** |

informal to complete a deal or agreement and achieve what you want

stitch up a deal *Shiraz has stitched up deals all over the world to boost sales.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **sew up**

S

STOCK

stocked, stocked, stocking

stock up

| **stock up** |

to buy a lot of something, especially food or drink, for example because it is cheap or in order to keep it for when you need it later

+ on *We'll stock up on wine and beer while we're abroad.*

+ for *Supermarkets were busy with people stocking up for Christmas.*

+ with *Residents boarded their houses and stocked up with provisions as the hurricane headed towards them.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **load up on, get in**

STOKE

stoked, stoked, stoking

stoke up

1 | **stoke up** | *sth* | | **stoke** | *sth* | **up** |

to add more coal or wood to a fire so that it is full and burns well: *She stoked up the stove to get the oven nice and hot.*

2 | **stoke up** | *sth* | | **stoke** | *sth* | **up** |

to encourage people's anger, hate, or disagreement to grow and become stronger: *Stories in the press have stoked up anti-government feeling.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stir up**

3 | **stoke up** |

especially BrE informal to eat or drink a lot, especially because you will not eat or drink again for a long time: *I like to stoke up with a big breakfast, because I don't eat much lunch.*

+ on *a lively restaurant where you can stoke up on pasta, pizza, or chips for just a few dollars*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fill up**

STOOP

stooped, stooped, stooping

stoop to

| **stoop to** | *sth* |

to do something that you know is bad or wrong in order to achieve something: *Ray would stoop to anything to get what he wanted.* | *The news editor must be short of good stories to stoop to this level of reporting.*

stoop to doing sth *I don't believe she would stoop to lying.*

STOP

stopped, stopped, stopping

stop at

| **stop at nothing** |

to be willing to do anything, even if it is cruel, dishonest, or illegal, in order to get what you want

stop at nothing to do sth *Drug addicts will stop at nothing to get money for their next fix.* | *Mike Calder was a hard, cold man who would stop at nothing to get what he wanted.*

stop away

| **stop away** |

informal to decide not to go somewhere that you usually go to, because something is wrong or different from usual: *If the manager sells all the team's decent players, the fans are going to stop away.*

+ from *You really ought to stop away from school if you're not feeling too well.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay away**

stop behind/back

1 | **stop back** |

AmE to come back to a place a short time later: *Can you stop back later? I'm kind of busy right now.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come back**

2 | **stop behind** |

BrE to stay in a place after other people have gone, especially because you have work to

do there: *I'll stop behind for a couple of hours after school to get this marking finished.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay behind**

stop by

stop by | **stop by** *sth*

to visit a person or place for a short time, especially when you are on your way to somewhere else: *I want to stop by and see Tracy on the way home.*

stop by (sth) to do sth *In the morning, Kim stopped by the post office to check the mail. | When Rena was out of town, Miles stopped by to feed her cats.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **call in, stop in, come by** *especially AmE*, **drop by** *informal*, **pop in** *informal*

stop in

1 **stop in**

informal to visit a person or place for a short time, especially when you are on your way to somewhere else: *She worked just round the corner from my house and often stopped in for a visit.*

+ at *Stop in at the Coffee Plantation for Tucson's smoothest jazz!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stop by, drop by** *informal*

2 **stop in**

BrE informal to stay at home instead of going out somewhere, especially in the evening: *"Are you coming for a drink?" "No, I'm stopping in tonight."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay in**

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

stop off

stop off

to stop during a journey, for example in order to see something or someone, or to have a rest: *On the way back home, he stopped off to look at a house he was thinking of buying.*

+ at/in etc *Boats will take you up and down the river, stopping off at Richmond, Kew, and Greenwich.*

+ for *The driver's home was nearby, so they stopped off for a mint tea there.*

stop-off N [C]
a short visit that you make during a journey, for example to rest or to see someone or something: *The flight takes 14 hours with a stop-off in Singapore.*

stop-off ADJ
a stop-off point or place is a place where you stop during a journey, especially to rest: *The town is attractive and is a useful stop-off point on the route across the mountains.*

stop on

stop on

BrE to stay somewhere, especially for longer than you had planned or longer than other people: *It was decided that Charles would leave next day for London, and that I would stop on here for another month. | The couple brought medicines to the village and stopped on to nurse the children back to health.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay on**

stop out

stop out

BrE informal to stay out late at night at a club, party etc: *Lizzie stopped out all night on Saturday. | Mum won't let me stop out late.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay out**

stop over

1 **stop over**

to stay somewhere for a night or a few days during a long journey, especially in order to rest or visit someone: *The Foreign Minister will stop over in Paris on his way to the conference for talks with French officials.*

stopover N [C]
a short stay somewhere for a night or a few days during a long journey: *There are no direct flights, so we'll have a two-day stopover in Delhi. | The town is often used by tourists as a stopover en route to Turkey.*

2 **stop over**

BrE informal to sleep at someone else's house when you have been visiting them: *Malcolm and the kids came for a meal on Saturday and stopped over.*

S

stop up

1 **stop up** *sth* | **stop** *sth* **up**

to fill a hole and prevent anything coming out or going in: *There's a hole in this pipe. I need something to stop it up with. | People are so concerned about draughts – they stop up every little opening and the house gets stuffy and airless.*

2 **stop up**

BrE informal to not go to bed at the normal time and stay up late, especially in order to do something

stop up to do sth *I stopped up to watch the baseball and it went on until after twelve.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **stay up**

3 **be stopped up**

AmE if your nose or head is stopped up, it is blocked with thick liquid because you have a cold: *I have a headache, my nose is stopped up and I feel terrible.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be blocked up, be bunged up** *BrE*

STORE

stored, stored, storing

store away

store away *sth* | **store** *sth* **away**

to put things in a safe place and keep them until you need them: *The maize is left to dry in the sun before being stored away in wooden chests. | All the data is stored away on the computer's back-up disk once a week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **store**

store up

1 **store up** *sth* | **store** *sth* **up**

to collect and keep a supply of something so that you can use it in the future: *Squirrels store up nuts for the winter. | At the beginning of the war, people started storing up goods for emergencies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hoard, lay up, squirrel away**

2 **store up** *sth* | **store** *sth* **up**

to remember things so that you can use them or tell someone about them later: *Writers store up these experiences for use in their novels. | If you make a mistake, he'll store it up and use it against you later.*

3 **store up problems/trouble etc (for the future)**

BrE to do something that will cause problems in the future: *Reducing interest rates now will only store up problems.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay up**

4 **store up** *sth* | **store** *sth* **up**

to deliberately not allow yourself to show your strong feelings, especially for a long time: *Children who store up their feelings rather than expressing them often have problems later on. | All the anger she'd stored up in seven years of marriage came pouring out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bottle up**

S

STOW

stowed, stowed, stowing

stow away

1 **stow away** *sth* | **stow** *sth* **away**

especially BrE to put or pack something somewhere carefully and neatly until you need it again: *We took the bags out to the car, and when Dad had got them all stowed away, we set off. | Some works of art had been stowed away in store rooms of Russian provincial museums for years.*

2 **stow away**

to hide on a ship, plane etc in order to travel without paying: *At the age of thirteen, Bill stowed away on a ship bound for Cork.*

stowaway N [C]

a person who hides on a ship, plane etc in order to travel without paying: *Sam had been a stowaway on a ship from Shangai to San Francisco.*

STRAIGHTEN

straightened, straightened, straightening

straighten out

1 **straighten out** *sth/sb* | **straighten** *sth/sb* **out**

to deal with a problem, disagreement, or confused situation successfully: *There were a few technical problems, but I talked to the engineers and we straightened everything out. | It was a misunderstanding – I'm sorry I didn't get it straightened out at the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sort out, deal with**

2 **straighten** *sb* **out** | **straighten out** *sb*

to deal with someone's bad behaviour or personal problems: *His parents got him a job, hoping that would straighten him out, but he ran away again. | I told him that until he got his life straightened out I wasn't going to see him again.*

straighten yourself out *He'd had a drink problem in the past, but he'd managed to straighten himself out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sort out**

3 **straighten out** | **straighten out** *sth* | **straighten** *sth* **out**

to become straight or to make something straight: *The road is narrow and very twisty for about a mile and then it straightens out. | Sylvia sat down on the bench and straightened out her legs. | The application form got crumpled – I tried to straighten it out, but I think I made it worse!*

* SIMILAR TO: **straighten**

straighten up

1 **straighten up** | **straighten yourself up**

to stand upright again after bending down, or to make your back completely straight: *She bent over to tie her shoes and couldn't straighten up again. | Ellie put down the brush, straightened up, and glared at William. | Mike straightened himself up and tried to look confident.*

2 **straighten up** *sth* | **straighten** *sth* **up** | **straighten up**

to make a place tidy: *Maintenance staff went on strike leaving workers to straighten up their own offices. | I made a feeble attempt to straighten things up, tossing clothing into the laundry bag and clearing dishes from the sink.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tidy up**

3 **straighten up**

AmE to begin to behave well after behaving badly: *If you don't straighten up, we'll go home right now!*

STRAIN

strained, strained, straining

strain at

strain at *sth*

if something or someone strains at a rope, chain etc, they pull hard at it with a steady pressure, for example in order to escape: *The bear pawed the air in fury, straining at the massive steel collar round its neck.* | *The little boats strained at their anchors.*

strain off

strain off *sth* **strain** *sth* **off**

if you strain off a liquid, you separate it from solid things by pouring it through something with very small holes in it: *When the pasta's cooked, strain the water off through a sieve.* | *Cook the tomato mixture for thirty minutes, remove from the heat and strain off any remaining liquid.*

STRAP

strapped, strapped, strapping

strap in/into

strap in *sb* **strap** *sb* **in**

strap *sb* **into** *sth*

to fasten someone into a seat in a car, plane etc using a strong belt, in order to help to keep them safe if there is an accident: *Make sure your passengers are all strapped in before you set off.*

strap yourself in *He took one of the two pilot seats and began to strap himself in.*

strap up

strap up *sth* **strap** *sth* **up**

BrE to tie a narrow piece of material around part of your body to support it when it has been injured: *Play was halted while the goal-keeper's knee was strapped up.* | *She fell and twisted her ankle badly – the doctor strapped it up and told her to rest.*

STRETCH

stretched, stretched, stretching

stretch away

stretch away

if an area of land stretches away, it continues for a long distance

+ across/to/from/beyond etc *To the west were the Great Plains, stretching away across Wyoming to the Rocky Mountains.* | *At the back is a formal garden, stretching away past ponds and flower beds to a pergola.*

stretch away into the distance *It's the best beach resort in Greece, with five miles of sand stretching away into the distance.*

stretch out

1 **stretch out/stretch yourself out**

to lie down in a relaxed way with your legs straight, especially in order to rest

+ on *He stretched himself out on the bed and closed his eyes.*

be stretched out *When I got home, Paula was stretched out on the sofa, watching TV.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lie down, sprawl out**

2 **stretch out** *sth* **stretch** *sth* **out**

if you stretch out your arms or legs, you move them away from your body and make them straight: *He sat down by the fire, stretched his legs out, and made himself comfortable.*

stretch out your hand (=hold your hand straight out in front of you in order to take something or touch someone) *"Oh John," she said, and stretched out her hand to squeeze his.*

3 **stretch out**

if an area of land stretches out, it continues for a very long distance, especially as far as you can see: *I was stunned by the beauty of the rolling hills that stretched out towards the Mustang Mountains.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stretch away**

4 **stretch out**

if a period of time stretches out in front of you, it seems to be going to continue for a long time

stretch out before/in front of sb *Dan was bored; he felt his life stretching out before him – years and years of the same old routine.*

5 **stretch** *sth* **out** **stretch out** *sth*

to make something last for a longer period of time than is usual or expected: *The lawyers could stretch this case out for ten years or more.* | *"Ohhh," said his teacher, stretching the sound out for maximum effect.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spin out**

6 **stretch** *sth* **out** **stretch out** *sth*

stretch out

AmE if you stretch out a piece of clothing, or it stretches out, it becomes bigger and looser by being worn or pulled, especially in a way that spoils it: *No, you can't wear my sweater. You'll stretch it out.*

S

STREW

be strewn with

1 **be strewn with** *sth*

to be covered with a lot of things in an untidy way: *The plastic bags were ripped open and his front lawn was strewn with garbage.* | *There was a small desk, strewn with books and papers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be littered with**

2 **be strewn with** *sth*

to be affected by a lot of problems or unpleasant things: *Watson's injury is the latest disaster in a career strewn with misfortune.* | *The world of TV is strewn with broken marriages.*

STRIKE

struck, struck, striking

strike at

strike at *sth/sb*

S

to have a harmful effect on something or someone: *This law strikes at the most vulnerable groups in our society.*

strike at the (very) heart of sth *an issue that strikes at the heart of our democracy*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hit**

strike back

strike back

to attack or criticize someone after they have attacked or criticized you: *United scored early in the second half, but Rangers struck back with two more spectacular goals to win the match.* | *Their rivals have taken 80% of the cola market and the company is keen to strike back.*

+ at *Government officials struck back at their critics saying that military action was essential to prevent further bloodshed.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hit back, fight back**

strike down

1 **strike down** *sb* **strike** *sb* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if someone is struck down by something, they are suddenly killed or badly injured by it: *The following morning he was dead, struck down by a massive heart attack.* | *Buddy Lamont had been struck down by a sniper's bullet.*

2 **strike down** *sb* **strike** *sb* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if someone is struck down by an illness, they are suddenly affected by it, usually severely: *Thousands of people have been struck down by the mystery illness.* | *Guests were struck down by food poisoning after a wedding reception in Scotland yesterday.*

3 **strike down** *sth* **strike** *sth* **down**

AmE if a court strikes down a law, it decides not to allow it: *The Supreme Court struck down the Act because it violates the U.S. constitution.*

be struck off

1 **be struck off (sth)**

BrE if a doctor, lawyer etc is struck off because they have done something wrong, their name is removed from the official list and they are not allowed to continue their work: *Dr Cox was found guilty and struck off for professional misconduct.*

be struck off the register *The 47-year-old solicitor faces being struck off the register.*

2 **strike off**

to start moving in a particular direction, especially in a confident or determined way

+ along/across/towards etc *"This way," he called back, striking off towards the village.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **strike out**

strike on

1 **strike on** *sth*

to suddenly think of an idea or a solution to a problem: *Richard eventually struck on a plan for solving his financial difficulties.* | *In 1514, the German astronomer Werner struck on a way to use the position of the moon as an aid to navigation.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hit on, come up with**

2 **be struck on** *sb/sth* USUALLY NEGATIVE

BrE spoken informal if you are not struck on someone or something, you do not like them very much, or you do not think that they are very good: *"Do you want to go to that pizza place again?" "I wasn't very struck on it last time."*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be keen on**

strike out

1 **strike out**

to start moving in a particular direction, especially in a confident or determined way

+ along/across/towards/into etc *She struck out across the lake with a smooth, practised crawl.* | *Picking up our bags, we struck out towards the mountains.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **strike off**

2 **strike out**

to try to hit someone, using a sudden, violent movement: *He grasped my collar. I struck out and hit him across the chest.*

+ at *Without warning, he struck out at Davis, knocking him to the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hit out, lash out**

3 **strike out**

to start to do something new and exciting in a confident independent way, especially a new type of work

strike out on your own/alone *In 1981, Tony left the company and struck out on his own, making and repairing electric guitars.*

4 **strike out** *sth* **strike** *sth* **out**

to draw a line through a word or piece of writing to show that it should not be there: *Strike out any statements that you disagree with.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cross out, delete**

5 **strike out**

AmE to do something badly or unsuccessfully: *She struck out. That was the worst performance I have ever seen.*

strike up

1 **strike up a conversation/friendship/ relationship etc**

to start a conversation or friendly relationship with someone: *At lunch, I struck up a conversation with a physician who sat at our table.* | *a story about a boy and a dog who strike up a friendship*

2 **strike up** **strike up** *sth*

old-fashioned if a band of musicians strikes up, they start to play their instruments: *In the big hall, the musicians struck up and people began to dance.* | *As the President walked in the band struck up 'The Star-Spangled Banner'.*

strike up a tune *The accordionist struck up a lively tune and the procession moved off.*

3 **strike up a deal**

to arrange a deal, especially with another company

+ with *Auspex Systems, the California network server company, struck up a deal with IBM recently.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strike**

strike upon

SEE **strike on**

STRING

strung, strung, stringing

string along

1 **string** *sb* **along**

informal to deceive someone for a long time, especially by pretending that you love them or that you will help them in some way: *"She had no intention of marrying him, then?" "No, she was just stringing him along."* | *Are you serious about lending me the money; you're not stringing me along?*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead on, deceive**

2 **string along**

BrE spoken to go somewhere with someone, especially because you have nothing else to do: *I thought I'd string along to see what they were up to.*

+ with *If you're going into town, I'll string along with you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tag along** *informal*

string out

1 **string out** *sth* **string** *sth* **out**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if something is strung out somewhere, it is spread there in a long line: *Tables had been set up in the meadow and lights strung out in the trees.* | *I could see the village in the distance, the tiny shops and houses strung out along the bay.*

2 **string out** *sth* **string** *sth* **out**

informal to make something last for a longer period of time than is wanted or necessary: *There was no point in stringing the relationship out – she would just tell him that it was over and leave.* | *a process that could string out the dispute for months*

* SIMILAR TO: **drag out, prolong** *formal*

string together

1 **string together** *sth*

string *sth* **together**

to join things together, adding one thing after another: *a series of computer commands that are strung together on a single line* | *Disney wanted to do more than string short cartoons together; he wanted to make a full-length animated movie.*

2 **string words/a sentence together**

to succeed in saying something that other people can understand: *He'd had so much to drink that he couldn't even think, let alone string a sentence together.* | *I used to speak really good Spanish, but I don't think I could string two words together now.*

string up

1 **string up** *sth* **string** *sth* **up**

to fasten something in a high position, especially something that forms a long line: *Workmen were busy stringing up the Christmas lights in the centre of town.* | *On summer evenings he would lie in the hammock strung up in the tiny courtyard.*

2 **string up** *sb* | **string** *sb* **up**

to kill someone by tying a rope around their neck and making them hang from it: *If he's the bomber, they ought to string him up!* | *films about tough lawmen coming to town to string up horse thieves*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hang**

STRIP

stripped, stripped, stripping

strip away

1 **strip away** *sth*

to remove something that prevents you from seeing what someone or something is really like: *The TV cameras have stripped away the mystery around the royal family by revealing their private behaviour and personal problems.* | *a book that strips away layers of deceit and pretence to show the art world as it really is*

2 **strip away** *sth*

to remove the surface of something, or remove a layer of something that is covering a surface: *Strip away the old paint and sand the wood down.* | *Rabbits cause damage to young trees by eating their leaves and stripping away their bark.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **strip off**

3 **strip away** *sth*

to get rid of rights or traditions that have existed for along time: *Women's economic and legal rights were stripped away, making them economically dependent on their husbands.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take away**

strip down

1 **strip down** *sth* | **strip** *sth* **down**

to separate an engine or piece of equipment into pieces in order to clean or repair it: *Nigel spent the weekend stripping down his motorbike.* | *The men sat hunched over cleaning rags and oil, stripping down their SA80 rifles and machine guns.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dismantle**

2 **strip down** *sth* | **strip** *sth* **down**

to make something much simpler or more basic

+ to *Mooney's songs, inspired by folk music, have been stripped down to the essentials.* | *He vowed to strip his life down to basics, and went to live in a small cabin on a mountainside.*

stripped-down ADJ
made much simpler or more basic: *Apple's new product, called the 'Internet Box' is a stripped-down version of a personal computer, designed just for using the Internet.*

strip down to

strip down to your underwear/pants etc

to quickly take off all your clothes except your underwear etc: *Paul stripped down to his swimming trunks and jumped into the lake.* | *She stripped down to her bra, filled the basin, and gave herself a good wash.*

strip of

1 **strip** *sb* **of** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to take away something important from someone, for example their title, property, or power, especially as a punishment: *Johnson was stripped of his Olympic medal after tests showed he had taken illegal drugs.* | *Captain Evans was found guilty of fraud and stripped of his rank.* | *The people had been stripped of all they possessed, including animals, food, and personal belongings.*

2 **strip** *sth* **of** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to remove a lot of something from something else: *The mountainside has been stripped of trees so that a new paper mill can be built there.* | *a simplified form of religious worship stripped of all ritual*

strip off

1 **strip off** *sth* | **strip** *sth* **off** | **strip off**

to quickly take off clothes that you are wearing or that someone else is wearing: *Boris loosened his tie, stripped off his clothes, and a moment later he was in the pool beside her.* | *She stripped off his shirt and started kissing his chest.*

strip off (=take off all your clothes) *Jack stripped off and jumped into the shower.*

2 **strip off** *sth* | **strip** *sth* **off**

to remove the surface of something or remove a layer of something that is covering a surface: *Strip off all the old wallpaper and repair any holes in the plaster.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **strip away**

strip out

1 **strip out** *sth* | **strip** *sth* **out**

if you strip a room or building out, you take everything out of it so that you can paint it or change it: *A developer had stripped the house out and converted it into four self-contained apartments.* | *They stripped out the interior of the building and completely redesigned it.*

2 **strip out** *sth* | **strip** *sth* **out**

BrE if you strip information out of a calculation, you do not include it because you want to see the results without it: *Stripping out currency changes, the company's sales were up 11.7 percent.*

STRUGGLE

struggled, struggled, struggling

struggle on

struggle on

to continue doing something even though it is very difficult: *The two climbers struggled on, despite the severe weather conditions, and eventually made it to the summit.* | *The Lester Horton Dance Theatre struggled on in the face of mounting debts, but was finally forced to close in 1997.*

* SIMILAR TO: **press on, soldier on**

STUB

stubbed, stubbed, stubbing

stub out

stub out *sth* **stub** *sth* **out**

to stop a cigarette from burning by pressing the end of it against something hard: *Christine leaned over and stubbed out her half-smoked cigarette in the ashtray.* | *"Tell you what," said Mark, stubbing his cigar out messily in his saucer, "Why don't we see him now?"*

STUFF

be stuffed up

be stuffed up

informal to be unable to breathe properly through your nose because you have a cold: *He's got a sore throat and he's all stuffed up, poor thing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be bunged up** *BrE*, **be stopped up** *AmE informal*

STUMBLE

stumbled, stumbled, stumbling

stumble across

stumble across *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to find something or someone when you did not expect to find them and were not looking for them: *Maria Kaczynski stumbled across an old diary of her father's when she was cleaning one day.* | *Boyce was killed because he stumbled across something he shouldn't have seen.* | *The trouble began when a policeman stumbled across a gang of about 20 youths known as 'the Chelsea Boys'.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across, stumble on/upon**

stumble on/upon

● **Stumble upon** is more formal than **stumble on** and is used mostly in writing.

stumble on/upon *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to discover something, especially something important or interesting, when you did not expect to and were not looking for it: *Alexander went home, little knowing that he was about to stumble upon one of the greatest discoveries of this century.* | *Whilst wandering around the backstreets, we stumbled on a wonderful little fish restaurant run by a local family.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stumble across**

STUMP

stumped, stumped, stumping

be stumped for

be stumped for ideas/words/an answer etc

to be unable to think of an idea, a reply, or anything to say: *The author seemed somewhat stumped for a reply to such an unusual question.* | *"Er..." said Zach thoughtfully, feeling a little stumped for words.*

stump up

stump up **stump up** *sth*

BrE informal to pay money, especially when it is difficult or you do not want to: *That's ten quid you owe me. Come on, stump up.*

+ **for** *Those wishing to enjoy the club's luxury facilities will have to stump up £20,000 a year for membership.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cough up** *informal*

SUBJECT

subjected, subjected, subjecting

subject to

1 **subject** *sb* **to** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to force someone to experience something very unpleasant: *She was subjected to years of battering and abuse before she finally divorced her husband.* | *An African-American friend told me that she is subjected to racist behavior every day.* | *Human rights groups complained that the men had been subjected to torture during interrogation.*

2 **subject** *sth* **to tests/analysis/scrutiny etc**

to test something or examine it carefully: *Drugs are subjected to rigorous testing before they can be marketed.* | *The airplane wing is being subjected to scrutiny, as it is thought that the crash could have been caused by a fault in its design.* | *In her report, Patricia M. Morgan subjects government crime statistics to careful analysis.*

3 **be subjected to** *sth*

to be affected by physical forces such as heat, light, energy etc: *When rocks are subjected to very high temperatures, structural changes occur.* | *They warned us that if the building were subjected to the force of a major earthquake it would certainly collapse.*

S

SUBMIT

submitted, submitted, submitting

submit to

1 **submit to** *sth/sb*

to accept the authority or power of someone or something and do what they demand: *If we submit to threats of violence now, we shall only encourage further aggression. | Religious leaders had taught us that women must submit to their husbands in all matters.*

2 **submit yourself to** *sth*

formal to allow something to be done to you, even though you do not want it to happen: *Walden agreed to submit himself to questioning. | Joshua Morris submitted himself to the first body-search of the day, carried out by a stern official in khaki uniform.*

SUBSCRIBE

subscribed, subscribed, subscribing

subscribe for

subscribe for *sth*

BrE to agree to buy shares (=the equal parts that a company is divided into): *Each employee may subscribe for up to £2000 worth of shares.*

subscribe to

1 **subscribe to** *sth*

formal if you subscribe to an idea or opinion, you agree with it or support it: *The Soviet government only employed those teachers who subscribed to the Marxist version of history.*

subscribe to the view/theory that *I have never subscribed to the view that parents should be blamed for their children's bad behaviour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **agree with**

2 **subscribe to** *sth*

to pay for copies of a newspaper or magazine to be sent to you, or to pay for a television, telephone, or Internet service: *Subscribe to New Internationalist magazine for a year, and receive a free map of the world. | An estimated 19.8 percent of San Diego's adults subscribe to a computer online service. | Subscribe to the Movie Channel for only $9.99 a month.*

SUCCEED

succeeded, succeeded, succeeding

succeed in

succeed in *sth*

to do what you have been trying or wanting to do

succeed in doing sth *Environmental campaigners have finally succeeded in convincing the government of the need to invest in public transport systems. | Negotiators have not yet succeeded in establishing a cease-fire. | Very few people who go on diets succeed in losing weight and keeping it off.*

succeed in sth *In 1999, Rodman succeeded in her ambition to climb Kino Peak.*

SUCK

sucked, sucked, sucking

get sucked in/into

get sucked in/into

to gradually become more and more involved in a bad situation or harmful activity, so that it becomes difficult to get out of or stop doing

get sucked in/into *Jonno started hanging round with a gang, and got sucked into a world of petty crime and drug abuse. | There are fears that if war breaks out in the Balkans again, other countries might get sucked in.*

be sucked in/into *Now men too have been sucked into the quest for physical perfection, making up 25% of all cosmetic surgery clients.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be/get dragged into**

suck off

suck *sb* **off** | **suck off** *sb*

taboo if someone sucks a man off, they move their lips and tongue along his sex organs to give him sexual pleasure: *Then she unzipped him and sucked him off. Just like that.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give sb a blow job** *informal*, **perform oral sex on sb** *formal*

suck up to

suck up to *sb*

informal to try to make someone in authority like you by doing nice things for them or saying nice things to them, in a way that is not sincere: *She's always sucking up to the boss – it makes me sick.*

* SIMILAR TO: **creep (up) to** *BrE spoken*

SUCKER

suckered, suckered, suckering

sucker into

sucker *sb* **into** *sth*

informal to persuade someone to do something they do not want to do, especially by tricking them or lying to them: *Charlie was really good at suckering people into extra work.*

sucker sb into doing sth *Jackie suckered me into paying for her dinner.*

SUE

sued, sued, sueing

sue for

sue for peace/mercy

formal to ask a government, king etc to stop attacking you or to not harm you: *The sight of Charles and his great army filled the Saxons with fear, and they sued for peace.* | *The prisoners sued for mercy at King Henry's feet.*

SUFFER

suffered, suffered, suffering

suffer from

1 **suffer from** *sth*

to have an illness, especially a serious one: *Seventeen children from the same school were admitted to hospital suffering from diarrhea, stomach cramps, vomiting and fever.* | *Deborah suffered from periods of deep depression, but she was a proud woman, and didn't tell anyone about it.*

2 **suffer from** *sth*

to have a particular disadvantage: *Indian laboratories suffer from a lack of resources.* | *The hill country of Monferrato frequently suffers from drought, because no substantial rivers run through it.* | *The Economic Development Admnistration was set up to develop stable economies in areas that suffered from persistent unemployment.*

SUIT

suited, suited, suiting

suit to

1 **be suited to** *sth*

to be the right person or thing for a particular purpose, job, or situation: *Students have created a wildlife garden suited to the needs of disabled people.*

be suited to doing sth *I think you realise quite quickly if someone is not suited to working in the emergency services.*

be well/ideally/perfectly suited to sth *Declan McGonagle has a background perfectly suited to his new post as director of the museum.* | *The debate is not over who is best suited to run the country, but which politician is the least corrupt.*

2 **suit** *sth* **to** *sth*

formal to make something exactly right for something else: *Suit the punishment to the crime.* | *Most teachers use a variety of approaches and methods in their work, suiting them to the needs of each class.*

suit up

suit up

AmE to put on a uniform or special clothes, especially for playing a sport: *Young will suit up for tonight's game against the Pittsburgh Penguins.* | *The astronauts suited up and took their first walk in space.*

SUM

summed, summed, summing

sum up

1 **sum up** *sth* | **sum** *sth* **up**

to describe something using only a few words: *"Hey, how was your date?" Vanessa summed it up in a word: "Hell".* | *My friend Hope sums up the philosophy of life in Italy this way: "If you are going to have a meal, you might as well have it on a beautiful plate."*

2 **sum up** | **sum up** *sth* | **sum** *sth* **up**

if you sum up at the end of a meeting, lesson, speech, or piece of writing, you state the most important points again: *Once we've shown you the video, Gary will come back and just sum up very briefly, and then we'll answer any questions.* | *There's a paragraph at the end of each chapter that sums up the main points.*

to sum up (=used before summing up at the end of a speech or report) *So, to sum up, we need to concentrate on two things – staff training and improved communication.*

* SIMILAR TO: **summarize**

summing-up N [C]
a statement giving the most important facts but not the details of something, especially made by the judge at the end of a trial: *In his summing-up, the judge warned the jury that it was dangerous to convict someone on the evidence of one victim alone.*

3 **sum up** *sb/sth* | **sum** *sb/sth* **up**

to show the most typical qualities of someone or something: *Andy Warhol's pictures seemed to sum up the new consumer society of the 1960s.* | *It was a damp, dark room with very little furniture. The place seemed to sum up Kai's bleak and empty life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **epitomize** *formal*

4 **sum up** *sb/sth* | **sum** *sb/sth* **up**

BrE to quickly form a judgement or opinion about someone or something: *She's a clever*

S

young woman. She'll soon sum up the situation. | *He looked long and hard at the younger executive as if trying to sum him up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suss out** *spoken informal, especially BrE*

SUMMON

summoned, summoned, summoning

summon up

1 **summon up** *sth*

to try very hard to find something such as courage, energy, or strength in yourself, because you need it to do something: *Geoffrey summoned up all his powers of concentration and looked down at the exam paper.*

summon up the courage/strength etc to do sth *She lay there panting for a while, trying to summon up the strength to move.*

summon up a smile *"You look a little pale." Paige summoned up a smile. "I'm fine."*

* SIMILAR TO: **muster up**

2 **summon up** *sth*

if something summons up a memory, thought or image, it makes you remember it or think of it: *The smell of the sea summoned up memories of childhood holidays, of long days spent playing on the beach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **evoke, conjure up**

3 **summon up** *sth*

to succeed in getting people to help you, or in getting something that you need for a particular purpose: *Because of our late arrival, the hotel restaurant could summon up only half-cold packet soup and some dry bread.* | *Rita had summoned up a group of supporters. Most of them did look a little strange.*

4 **summon up** *sb/sth*

to communicate with the spirits of dead people, and tell them to come to you: *They stand in a ring and hold hands, and summon up the spirits of the dead.* | *He cried out in a voice that would summon up the devil from the deepest part of hell.*

SURGE

surged, surged, surging

surge up

surge up

if an emotion surges up, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *Rage surged up within her. "If I had a knife," she thought "I would kill him."* | *Rudskov looked around in despair and felt panic surging up inside him, taking his breath away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rise up, well up** *literary*

S

SUSS

sussed, sussed, sussing

suss out

suss out *sb/sth* | **suss** *sb/sth* **out**

spoken, especially BrE to discover what someone or something is really like, or to discover something that you did not know before: *It didn't take me long to suss her out.*

+ what/which/how etc *Ray used to give us all free drinks until the bar manager sussed out what he was doing and sacked him.* | *I'm just trying to suss out how this dishwasher works.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work out, figure out**

SWAB

swabbed, swabbed, swabbing

swab down

swab down *sth* | **swab** *sth* **down**

to wash walls or the floor thoroughly, especially a ship: *I found Rafael on the ship, swabbing down the deck.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wash down**

swab out

swab out *sth* | **swab** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to clean something with a piece of cloth and a cleaning product that destroys bacteria (=very small living things that can cause disease) *Make sure all the WCs are swabbed out with disinfectant.*

SWALLOW

swallowed, swallowed, swallowing

swallow down

swallow down *sth* | **swallow** *sth* **down**

to make something that is in your mouth go down your throat and towards your stomach: *Christina shook two pills out of the bottle and swallowed them down.* | *Stewart swallowed down his wine and got up.*

swallow up

1 **swallow up** *sth* | **swallow** *sth* **up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a large country, company, or organization swallows up a smaller one, the smaller one becomes part of the larger one: *The tiny island state was swallowed up by Indonesia in 1976.* | *A lot of the old publishing firms have been swallowed up by huge multinationals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take over, absorb**

2 **swallow up** *sth* | **swallow** *sth* **up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if something swallows up a large amount of money, it uses all of it, so that the money is not available for other things: *I got a pay rise, but it was swallowed up by the increase in train fares.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **eat up**

3 **swallow up** *sb/sth* | **swallow** *sb/sth* **up**

literary if something such as darkness, a cloud, or a crowd swallows someone or something up, it hides them so that they cannot be seen: *The storm had swallowed up the daylight. Sheets of dense gray rain fell from the sky.* | *No sooner did the moon spill its silver light over the fields than it was swallowed up by cloud.* | *She watched as Blake walked down the street, until he was swallowed up by the crowd.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **engulf**

SWAP *also* SWOP *BrE*

swapped, swapped, swapping
swopped, swopped, swopping

swap around
ALSO **swap round** *BrE*

swap *sth* **around/round**

to move two or more things so that each one is in the place the other one was in before: *Jake poured orange juice into her glass and vodka and orange into his, then swapped them round when she wasn't looking.* | *Have you been swapping the furniture around again?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swap over** *BrE*

swap over

1 **swap over**

if two people swap over, one starts doing the thing that the other one was doing before, or they change places so that one is sitting in the place where the other was sitting before: *I'll play from this end first and then after a couple of games, we'll swap over.* | *We shared the driving – I drove the first part of the journey up to Birmingham, and then we swapped over.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **change over, switch over**

2 **swap** *sth* **over**

BrE to move two things so that each one is in the place that the other one was in before: *Sally always comes to school with her shoes on the wrong feet, and her teacher has to swap them over for her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **swap around/round**

SWARM

swarmed, swarmed, swarming

swarm with

be swarming with *sth*

if a place is swarming with people or insects, it is full of large numbers of them and they are moving around: *The museum was swarming with tourists – you couldn't really see anything properly.* | *The room was hot and stuffy, and swarming with flies.*

SWATHE

swathed, swathed, swathing

be swathed in

be swathed in *sth*

to be wrapped or covered in cloth or clothing: *The Emperor sat on his throne, swathed in a golden robe of richly embroidered silk.* | *rich women swathed in costly furs* | *Carter was lying on a stretcher, his head swathed in bandages.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be wrapped in sth**

S

SWEAR

swore, sworn, swearing

swear by

swear by *sth*

if you swear by something, you are certain that it always works well and tell other people to use it: *Margaret swears by vitamin C pills – she says she never gets colds.* | *It's a new miracle anti-aging cream, and according to the article, many Hollywood celebrities swear by it.*

swear in

1 **be sworn in**

if someone is sworn in at the beginning of a new job in government or the army, they make an official promise in a special ceremony: *President Hafez al-Assad was sworn in for a fourth term in office on March 12.*

+ as *Only hours after Kennedy's death, Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as President.*

swear in sb *General Zamora swore in new commanders of the armed forces on November 19th.*

2 **be sworn in**

to give an official promise in a court of law, before you take part in a trial: *After every member of the jury has been sworn in, the judge introduces the lawyers.*

swearing-in N [C]
an official ceremony when someone who has a new job in government or in the army promises to be honest and loyal: *The swearing-in took place this morning at the presidential palace.*

swear off

swear off *sth*

if you swear off a particular habit or pleasure, such as cigarettes or alcohol, you decide to stop it because it is bad for you: *Froggy discovered religion, and swore off alcohol, sex, and even gambling.* | *Jay had sworn off love. "Too painful, darling."*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up, renounce** *formal*

swear to

1 **swear to** *sth*

to be willing to say that something is true because you are sure about it: *A man recognized you, Marco. He saw you take the money and will swear to it.*

I can't swear to it *spoken I think it was Sue I saw, but I couldn't swear to it.*

S

2 **be sworn to secrecy/silence**

if you are sworn to secrecy or silence, you have promised someone that you will not tell their secret: *"What's Julia planning for my birthday?" "I can't tell you – I've been sworn to secrecy."*

SWEAT

sweated, sweated, sweating

sweat off

1 **sweat off** *sth* **sweat** *sth* **off**

to get rid of an illness by sweating a lot. When you sweat, liquid comes out of your skin because you are hot: *You've got a fever – stay in bed and sweat it off.*

2 **sweat off** *sth* **sweat** *sth* **off**

to make your body weigh less by doing hard physical exercise and sweating: *Boxers work hard to sweat off as much weight as they can before they are weighed.*

sweat out

1 **sweat it out**

informal to work hard and continuously for long periods, especially in hot conditions: *The men had been toiling away for six months – sweating it out in blistering heat from 6 am until 9 pm every day.*

sweat your guts out (=work with a lot of effort) *We've been sweating out guts out trying to get this job finished on time.*

2 **sweat it out**

informal to wait anxiously for news that is very important to you: *"The poor guy keeps asking what is going to happen to him." "Well, leave him to sweat it out for a while."* | *Van Os is sweating it out, while the coach decides which 16 players he will be taking to the Olympics.*

sweat out of

1 **sweat** *sth* **out of** *sb*

BrE informal to find out information from someone by asking them of questions in a threatening way: *The police finally sweated the other names out of him.*

2 **sweat something out of** *sb*

to force someone to give you money even though they have very little money: *The extra millions of dollars will be found from taxes sweated out of the country's impoverished citizens.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw out of**

SWEEP

swept, swept, sweeping

be swept along

be swept along (by sth)

to be very excited by something, so that you are persuaded to do something or like something without stopping to consider if it is right or good: *Iain hadn't intended to rob the store – he had been swept along by Tommy's drunken madness.* | *It's difficult even for an old cynic like me to avoid being swept along by the romance of those old Hollywood films.*

sweep aside

1 **sweep aside** *sth* **sweep** *sth* **aside**

to refuse to consider something that someone says, and treat it as unimportant: *Berry argued that buying an airline was over-ambitious, but Branson swept all objections aside.* | *Britain swept aside French protests last night and ordered the restart of the GATT trade talks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush aside, dismiss**

2 **sweep aside** *sb* **sweep** *sb* **aside**

to defeat someone very easily: *The Democrats held control of Congress until the Republicans swept them aside in 1994.* | *Rosset, the Olympic tennis champion, swept aside Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb 6–2, 6–2 to win the Kremlin Cup tournament yesterday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take apart** *informal*

3 **sweep aside** *sth* **sweep** *sth* **aside**

to get rid of something very quickly in order to replace it with something else, especially

in a way that destroys something valuable: *Writing in 1934, George Orwell feared that modernisation would sweep aside Burmese culture.* | *Whole forests have been swept aside to grow crops for western consumers.*

sweep away

1 **sweep away** *sth* **sweep** *sth* **away**

to get rid of laws, beliefs, or traditions because they are considered to be old-fashioned or wrong: *Sooner or later, the social practices that keep Japanese women out of good jobs will be swept away by economic circumstances.* | *Switzerland's economy minister is sweeping away some of the conventions that have stifled competition in the domestic market for the past half-century.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, do away with**

2 **be swept away**

to be so excited by someone or something, that you feel very strong emotions and forget about other things: *Psychologists claim that men are more likely than women to fall in love and be swept away.* | *I think she was swept away by his wealth and power. She loved fantasising about wearing beautiful dresses, and being chauffeur-driven everywhere.* | *Giselle danced, swept away by the music.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get carried away, be swept up by/in**

sweep out

sweep out *sth* **sweep** *sth* **out**

to clean dust or dirt from the floor of a room by using a brush: *The cellars hadn't been swept out for years and the dust lay thick everywhere.*

sweep up

1 **sweep up** **sweep up** *sth* **sweep** *sth* **up**

to clean dust and dirt from a floor using a special brush: *The guests had all gone, and the cleaner was sweeping up.* | *The barman scowled as he swept up the broken glass.*

2 **be swept up by/in** *sth*

to be so excited by someone or something, that you feel very strong emotions and forget about other things: *The people cheered and danced in the streets, swept up in the euphoria of victory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **by swept away, be carried away**

3 **sweep** *sb/sth* **up** **sweep up** *sb/sth*

to pick someone or something up with one quick movement: *He swept her up in her arms and kissed her.* | *Gillian swept up the coins and put them in her pocket.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scoop up**

4 **be swept up in** *sth*

to become involved in a dangerous situation that you cannot avoid or escape: *The vast majority of the victims were innocent people, swept up in Stalin's campaign of terror.* | *Whilst on a business trip to Europe, she is swept up in an adventure of danger and intrigue involving drugs, crime, and romance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be caught up in**

SWEETEN

sweetened, sweetened, sweetening

sweeten up

sweeten up *sb* **sweeten** *sb* **up**

informal to try to persuade someone to do what you want by being nice to them or giving them presents or money: *Take him out to lunch – try to sweeten him up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **butter up, soften up**

SWELL

swelled, swollen, swelling

swell up

1 **swell up**

if part of your body swells up, it becomes larger and rounder than usual, because of an injury or illness: *His ankle's swollen up, but it's not broken.* | *Joyce felt her top lip swell up and she tasted blood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **puff up**

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

2 **swell up**

to gradually increase in size: *If the window isn't painted, moisture is absorbed in wet weather, and the wood swells up.*

SWERVE

swerved, swerved, swerving

swerve from

not swerve from *sth*

formal to be determined that nothing will stop you from trying to achieve an aim or follow a plan or principle: *Chernomyrdin, meanwhile, declared that Russia "will not swerve from its program of economic reform."*

SWILL

swilled, swilled, swilling

swill down

1 **swill down** *sth* **swill** *sth* **down**

informal if you swill down a drink, you drink

S

it quickly: *He poured himself another glass of beer and swilled it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock back** *informal*

2 **swill down** *sth* **swill** *sth* **down**

informal if you swill down food with a drink, you drink something while you are eating it

+ with *They had steak and chips, swilled down with plenty of cheap red wine.*

3 **swill down** *sth* **swill** *sth* **down**

BrE to clean a place, by throwing a lot of water over it: *We went outside with buckets of hot water and began to swill down the courtyard.*

swill out

swill out *sth* **swill** *sth* **out**

to clean the inside of something by moving water around in it quickly: *Mike poured the soup into bowls then quickly swilled out the pan. | The dentist gave me a cup of bright pink liquid and told me to swill my mouth out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rinse out, wash out**

S

SWIM

be swimming in

be swimming in *sth*

to contain a lot of something or be surrounded by a lot of something – used especially to say that a food contains too much of something: *The main courses were swimming in cream and butter, and I felt rather full.*

SWING

swung, swung, swinging

swing around ALSO swing round *BrE*

1 **swing around/round**

to suddenly turn around so that you are facing the opposite direction: *Bill heard a sound and swung around, startled. | I watched as Gambotti's car swung around in the parking lot and then sped off. | Julius swung round to face her. "You won't touch my money – and you won't touch me."*

* SIMILAR TO: **spin around**

2 **swing around/round**

to change your opinion completely, so that you support something that you used to oppose, or oppose something that you used to support: *Meanwhile, in Italy, several senior government ministers who used to support closer European co-operation have suddenly swung round to oppose it. | American public opinion is gradually swinging around in favour of tougher gun-control laws.*

swing at

1 **swing at** *sb*

to try to hit someone by swinging your arm in order to hit them with your hand or something that you are holding: *"You're a murdering bastard." Jack swung at him and missed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swipe at**

2 **swing at** *sth*

to try to hit the ball in a game such as baseball: *I saw the coach frowning as I swung at a series of pitches, missing each one.*

swing by

swing by **swing by** *sth*

AmE informal to visit a place or person for a short time before going somewhere else: *I'll swing by the grocery store on my way home from work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop by**

swing round

SEE **swing around**

SWIPE

swiped, swiped, swiping

swipe at

1 **swipe at** *sb*

to try to hit someone by swinging your arm: *He tried to swipe at her but lost his balance and fell back into the chair.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swing at**

2 **swipe at** *sb/sth*

to criticize someone or something: *'Heathers' is a sharp-edged black comedy which mercilessly swipes at American youth culture.*

SWITCH

switched, switched, switching

switch around ALSO switch round *BrE*

switch *sb/sth* **around/round**

to move two or more things or people so that each one is in the place that the other was in before, or is doing the job or activity that the other was doing before: *Claudia dropped the sleeping pills into her own mug, stirred swiftly and then rapidly switched the mugs round. | Absences could easily be covered because most of the staff knew each others' rotas and could easily be switched around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swap over/around**

switch off

1 **switch off** *sth* | **switch** *sth* **off** | **switch off**

to make something stop working by using a switch – use this about things that use electricity, for example lights, televisions, or computers: *Sylvie switched the lights off and went to bed. | "What are you watching that rubbish for?" he said, and switched off the television.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn off**

● OPPOSITE: **switch on**

2 **switch off**

especially BrE to stop listening or paying attention to what someone is saying, because it is not interesting: *When my wife's colleagues all start talking about their work, I just switch off. | You shouldn't make your speech too long, or people will switch off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tune out** *AmE informal*

3 **switch off**

to stop thinking about your work or problems, and relax: *I play squash after work to help me switch off. | Sometimes she can't get to sleep, because she just can't switch off.*

switch on

1 **switch on** *sth* | **switch** *sth* **on** | **switch on**

to make something start working by using a switch – use this about things that use electricity, for example lights, televisions, or computers: *Can you switch the light on? | My sister switched on the radio, and began to dance around the kitchen. | You can't put the disk in until I've switched on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn on**

● OPPOSITE: **switch off**

2 **switch on a smile**

BrE to smile at someone when this is not sincere: *Switching on her brightest, falsest smile, she turned to him: "It's been very nice to meet you, Mr Burns".*

3 **be switched on**

BrE spoken to be intelligent, and quick to notice and understand things that are happening around you: *This new headteacher, Mr Collins – he's meant to be pretty switched on. | The ones who were going to succeed were those who acted more efficiently and were more switched on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be on the ball** *informal*

switch over

1 **switch over**

to change from one method, system, product etc to a different one

+ to *I've switched over to telephone banking because it's more convenient. | The power failure created chaos throughout the city and forced three hospitals to switch over to their emergency generators.*

+ from *A new high-speed rail service would encourage millions of passengers to switch over from air travel.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch over, change over**

switchover N
the change from one system, method etc to a different one: *The switchover to less labor-intensive technologies has caused a serious unemployment problem.*

2 **switch over**

BrE to change from one television or radio station to another: *There's a film on the other channel – does anyone mind if I switch over?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

3 **switch over**

if two people switch over, they each start doing the job or activity that the other one was doing before: *If you get tired of driving we can always switch over.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **change over, swap over**

switch round *BrE*

SEE **switch around**

SWIVEL

swivelled, swivelled, swivelling BrE
swiveled, swiveled, swiveling AmE

swivel around
ALSO **swivel round** *BrE*

1 **swivel around/round**

to turn around, so that you face the opposite direction: *Dr Schmidt swivelled around in his chair to face the window. | "Your figure's very attractive." Mrs. Mounce swivelled round on her heel, and stared at him.*

swivel your head/eyes around *"There's Phil Aldrich!" Shirley whispered. Liz swivelled her head round to have a look at him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn around, swing around**

2 **swivel around/round**

if something swivels around, or if you swivel it around, it turns around a central fixed point: *The spotlight swivels around and can be pointed in any direction. | She swivelled the camera around and scanned the room.*

S

SWOOP

swooped, swooped, swooping

swoop down

1 swoop down

if a bird or plane swoops down, it suddenly moves down towards the ground, especially to attack something: *The gull swooped down and plucked a fish out of the water.* | *At least once a day, enemy bombers would swoop down on the city, sending people scurrying into shelters.*

2 swoop down

if a group of soldiers, police officers etc swoop down, they make a sudden surprise attack

+ on *Narcotics officers swooped down on locations in the Bay Area, arresting at least 17 major suppliers of cocaine and other drugs.* | *The police swooped down on them in a dawn raid, and all five gang members were arrested.*

SWOP

SEE **SWAP**

SWOT

swotted, swotted, swotting

swot up

swot up | swot up *sth* | swot *sth* up

BrE informal to learn as much as you can about a subject, especially before a test or examination: *I've got to swot up French irregular verbs for a test tomorrow.*

+ on *Gill's swotting up on German history.*

* SIMILAR TO: **revise, mug up** *BrE informal*

SYPHON

SEE **SIPHON**

S

T

TACK

tacked, tacked, tacking

tack on/onto

tack *sth* **on** | **tack on** *sth*

tack *sth* **onto** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to add something new to something that is already complete, especially in a way that looks wrong or that spoils the original thing: *It was a beautiful old stone house with an unpleasant modern extension tacked on at the back.* | *The film has an extraordinary surprise ending, tacked onto the end of the original story.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **add on**

tack up

1 **tack** *sth* **up** | **tack up** *sth*

to fasten something to a wall, post etc using small nails: *I couldn't help noticing the lists of rules that were tacked up all over the school.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pin up**

2 **tack up** *sth* | **tack** *sth* **up**

BrE to sew the bottom or edge of a piece of clothing using long loose stitches, especially before sewing it more carefully with smaller stitches: *I'll just tack up the bottom of the sleeves, and then you can try them for length.* | *She was wearing an old black dress with the hem roughly tacked up.*

3 **tack up** *sth* | **tack** *sth* **up** | **tack up**

BrE to put the equipment needed for riding onto a horse's back and head: *Alexander yelled at me to tack up the little brown pony.*

TAG

tagged, tagged, tagging

tag along

tag along

informal to go somewhere with someone, especially when they have not asked you to go with them: *If you're going into town, do you mind if I tag along?*

+ with *Mitch was such a popular guy – there was always a crowd of people wanting to tag along with him.*

tag along behind

tag along behind | **tag along behind** *sb*

informal to follow behind someone when they are going somewhere, especially because you walk more slowly than they do: *Madeleine always used to tag along behind her older brother and his friends.*

tag on

1 **be tagged on**

informal to be added to the end of something that is said or written: *On the rare occasions that he did remember to say thank you, it was usually just tagged on as an afterthought.*

2 **tag on**

to go somewhere with someone, especially when they have not asked you to go with them: *A guide was showing people round, so we tagged on and saw a lot we would not have seen otherwise.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tag along**

TAIL

tailed, tailed, tailing

tail away

SEE **tail off/away**

tail back

tail back

BrE if traffic tails back, a long line of it forms and moves very slowly, for example because the road is blocked: *Traffic tailed back for twelve miles after an accident closed the inside lane of the motorway.*

tailback N [C]
BrE a long line of traffic that is moving very slowly or not moving at all: *On the way home we ran into a five-mile tailback on the M1.*

tail off/away

1 **tailoff/away**

to gradually become less, smaller etc, and often stop or disappear completely: *Demand usually tails off in August, but this year sales have continued to rise.* | *After a few years the number of visitors coming to the park began to tail off.*

2 **tail off/away**

BrE if a person's voice tails off or away, it gradually becomes quieter and then stops: *The old lady's voice tailed off when she saw the expression in his eyes.* | *Jack started to explain but his words tailed away, and Holly knew that he was making an excuse.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **trail off**

TAILOR

tailored, tailored, tailoring

tailor to

tailor *sth* **to** *sb/sth*

to make something so that it is exactly right for what a particular person, organization etc needs or wants: *GHN Consultants will create a personal development programme that is tailored to the individual requirements of each individual executive.*

TAKE

took, taken, taking

be taken aback

be taken aback

to be surprised or shocked, especially so that for a moment you do not know what to say: *Philip seemed slightly taken aback by this sudden request.* | *Anyway, I did some radio interviews, but was quite taken aback when I found myself on the front page of the New York Times.*

take after

take after *sb*

to be like your mother, father, grandfather etc, because you look like them, or because you have a similar character, or similar abilities: *Becky's really pretty. She takes after her mother.* | *"You a good cook Paul?" "Of course he is. He takes after his dad, don't you Paul?"*

take against

take against *sb*

BrE to start to dislike someone, especially without a good reason: *Bernard was engaged to a very pretty young woman, but for some reason his mother took against her.* | *Young's boss had taken against him, describing him as "arrogant and conceited".*

● OPPOSITE: **take to**

take along

take along *sb/sth* **take** *sb/sth* **along**

to take someone or something with you when you are going somewhere: *My grandmother used to visit a lady in Lakeshore Drive, and sometimes she took me along.* | *The company sometimes lets employees take their spouses along on business trips.* | *Let's take a picnic along – there are some really nice places to stop.*

take apart

1 **take** *sth* **apart**

to separate something into the different parts that it is made from: *Danskin was taking his gun apart so that he could clean it.* | *Gegs spent the day taking his motorbike engine apart, but he couldn't work out what was wrong with it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dismantle** *formal*, **strip down**

● OPPOSITE: **put together**

2 **take** *sb* **apart**

informal to attack someone cause them serious injuries: *If you don't get out of here, mister, we're going to take you apart.* | *I had beaten him in a fair fight, but no boy would admit that a girl had taken him apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **thrash** *informal*

3 **take** *sb* **apart**

informal to beat someone very easily in a game, sport, or fight: *The Falcons' quarterback was injured, and the Packers took them apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **walk all over sb, sweep aside**

4 **take** *sth* **apart**

if you take a room, house etc apart, you look in every part of it because you are searching for something: *The police came and took the place apart, but they didn't find anything.*

5 **take** *sth* **apart**

to carefully examine what someone has written in order to consider and criticize the ideas in it: *The tutor marked our assignments, and then took them apart one by one, in front of the whole class.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

6 **take** *sb* **apart**

to criticize someone very strongly: *Clinton got taken apart by the press after his affair with Monica Lewinsky.*

* SIMILAR TO: **roast** *informal*

take around ALSO take round *BrE*

take *sb* **around/round**

take around/round *sb*

to walk around a place with someone who has not been there before, and show them the most interesting and important things there: *A guide took us round the palace and gardens.* | *Ralph met Helen and Theresa at the station, and then took them around the town.*

* SIMILAR TO: **show sb around**

take aside

take *sb* **aside**

to separate someone from the rest of a group, so that you can talk to them without the other people hearing: *After the meeting Madame Mattli took Paula aside. "I have been*

T

watching you work," she said, "and I am very impressed."

take away

1 **take away** *sth* | **take** *sth* **away**

to remove something from where it is: *Have you finished with the cookies? Shall I take them away? | Cans and glass bottles are put into separate bins so that they can be taken away for recycling.*

+ from *She took her hands away from her eyes and looked again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **remove**

2 **take away** *sth* | **take** *sth* **away**

to remove something that someone needs or wants, so that they do not have it any more: *Building a new shopping mall would take away one of the last remaining green spaces in the area. | We pray for those who have been wrongly imprisoned, and have had their freedom taken away.*

+ from *By cutting pensions, the government is taking money away from those who need it most.*

3 **take away** *sb* | **take** *sb* **away**

if someone takes you away, they force you to go somewhere with them when you do not want to go: *The police came in the middle of the night and took him away. | All the men in the village were killed, and the women and children were taken away.*

4 **take** *sb* **away**

to take someone with you when you go to stay in another place: *I'm taking the kids away for a few days.*

5 **take away** *sth* | **take** *sth* **away**

to make a feeling or taste disappear: *Joe took the medicine, then drank some orange juice to take the taste away. | The nurse gave him something to take away the pain.*

6 **take away** *sth* | **take** *sth* **away**

if you take one number away from a second one, you reduce the second one by that number: *253 take away 30 is 223.*

+ from *Take $40 away from the total.*

* SIMILAR TO: **subtract**

7 **take away** *sb* | **take** *sb* **away**

if something takes you away from a place or activity, it stops you from being in that place or doing that activity

+ from *My Dad's job took him away from home a lot, and he was hardly ever there while we were growing up. | All this paperwork is taking teachers away from what they should be doing – teaching the children.*

8 **take away** *sth* | **take** *sth* **away**

to learn something from an experience, and to remember what you have learnt so that it helps you in the future: *I was not a very successful student, but one thing I did take away from my time at university was a great love of English literature. | When a relationship breaks up, think about what you have learned about yourself, and take this away with you.*

9 **to take away**

BrE if you buy food in a restaurant to take away, you buy it to eat somewhere else: *Two burgers and two teas to take away, please.*

* SIMILAR TO: **to go** *AmE*

takeaway N [C]
BrE a hot meal that you buy in a shop or restaurant and eat somewhere else: *I can't be bothered to cook – let's get a takeaway.*

takeaway N [C]
BrE a shop that sells hot food that you take and eat somewhere else: *I'm going to the Chinese takeaway – d'you want anything?*

10 **take it away!**

spoken used to tell a group of performers, especially musicians, to start performing: *And now our final number from the Delta Jazz Quartet! Take it away, boys!*

take away from

take away from *sth* NOT PROGRESSIVE

to make something seem less good, less impressive, less real etc: *They won more easily because there weren't many other competitors, but that shouldn't take away from their achievement. | Being a film critic does somehow take away from the enjoyment of going to the movies. | The victim was an innocent man. No explanation by his killers can take away from that fact.*

* SIMILAR TO: **detract from** *formal*

take back

1 **take back** *sth* | **take** *sth* **back**

to return a book or something else to the library or shop that you borrowed it from: *Can you take my library books back for me? | I've got to take these videos back to Blockbuster Video before they close.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

2a **take back** *sth* | **take** *sth* **back**

to return something to the shop that you bought it from, because it is unsuitable or of poor quality: *These trousers are a bit small – I'll have to take them back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

2b **take back** *sth* | **take** *sth* **back**

if a shop takes back goods that you have bought there, they agree to give you your

money back because the goods are unsuitable or poor quality: *They'll take it back if you've still got the receipt.*

3 **take back** *sth* | **take** *sth* **back**

to admit that you were wrong to say something: *Dad leaped to his feet and glared at me, "You will take that remark back and apologize immediately!" he roared. | "I don't love you any more!" she cried. Immediately she wished that she could take it back, but it was too late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **retract** *formal*

4 **take** *sb* **back**

to make you remember a period of time in the past: *That song 'Lili Marlene' takes me back a bit – we used to sing it during the war.*

+ to *The prosecutor took her back to that terrible day once more. "What did his face look like?" he asked in a hushed voice.*

5 **take** *sb* **back**

if a story, film etc takes you back to a time in the past, it is about events that happened at that time: *The latest film from Merchant Ivory, takes us back to 18th century France, when Thomas Jefferson found love in pre-revolutionary Paris.*

6 **take back** *sth* | **take** *sth* **back**

to get control or possession of something again after losing it, especially by using force: *In 1847, the Maya rose against the Europeans, and took back 90 percent of their ancestral lands.*

7 **take back** *sb* | **take** *sb* **back**

if you take someone back after an argument or after separating from them, you agree to let them live or work with you again: *She once told me that if Reggie ever left her for another woman, she'd never take him back. | "I got my old job again," she said. "Mrs James has taken me back."*

8 **take back** *sth* | **take** *sth* **back**

AmE if you wish that you could take something back, you wish that you had not done it: *Are there any of her TV shows that she would take back? "Yes – the first three. They were disastrous." | That one play lost us the game. I wish I could take it back.*

take down

1 **take down** *sth* | **take** *sth* **down**

to remove something that is fixed to a wall: *We have to take the Christmas decorations down today. | The red star was replaced by a red rose, and the huge portrait of Lenin was taken down.*

● OPPOSITE: **put up**

2 **take down** *sth* | **take** *sth* **down**

to remove a temporary structure by separating it into pieces: *They're taking the scaffolding down tomorrow. | Can you help me take the tent down?*

* SIMILAR TO: **dismantle** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **put up**

3 **take down** *sth* | **take** *sth* **down**

to write down something that someone is saying or something that can be seen for a short time only: *Let me take down your name and phone number. | It it hadn't been for a sharp-eyed shopkeeper who took down the registration number of the car, the thieves might never have been caught.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get down** *informal*

take for

1 **take** *sb* **for** *sth*

to think that someone is something that they are not: *I wondered if the tourists took me for a New Yorker. | He had taken her for a working-class girl. Now, hearing her accent, he realized his mistake.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mistake (for)**

2 **take** *sb* **for a fool/an idiot**

to treat someone as if they are stupid: *"I love you, I swear. She means nothing to me," he insisted. "God, do you take me for a fool?"*

3 **what do you take me for?**

spoken used to show that you are offended because someone has treated you as if you are very stupid or a very bad person: *What do you take me for! Do you think I'd leave a child to drown? | You don't honestly expect me to agree to a statement like that, do you? What do you take me for?*

take in

1 **take in** *sth* | **take** *sth* **in** USUALLY NEGATIVE

a to understand and remember facts and information: *She did tell me what time we were supposed to be there, but I didn't take it in. | The guide told us a lot about the place, but it was too much to take in. | I'm always so sleepy when I go to classes – I can't take in very much.*

b to understand news or information and realize its meaning and importance, especially very bad or shocking news that is difficult to believe: *I had cancer. I sat staring into my cup of tea, trying to take it in. | He felt weak and started shaking. Mary was speaking to him, but he did not take in the words.*

2 **be taken in**

to be completely deceived by someone or something so that you believe a lie: *We were*

completely taken in by his charming confident manner. | *The advertisement looked perfectly genuine – a lot of people were taken in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be deceived, be fooled**

3a **take in** *sb* | **take** *sb* **in**

to let someone live in your home in return for payment: *Annette couldn't afford to pay her mortgage any more, so she took in a lodger.*

3b **take in** *sb* | **take** *sb* **in**

to let someone stay in your home or in your country when they have nowhere else to stay: *How could you be so ungrateful! Have you forgotten how we took you in when you were homeless and looked after you?* | *Jordan took in vast numbers of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait.*

4 **take in** *sth* | **take** *sth* **in**

to include something – use this especially about the places visited on a trip, or the activities of a business: *The bike ride will take in some of the loveliest parts of the county, including Belvoir Park Forest.* | *Not everyone is convinced that he is experienced enough to run a business that takes in 32 regional newspapers, 17 magazines, and five television networks.* | *The Queen's tour of the Caribbean will take in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda.*

* SIMILAR TO: **include**

5 **take in** *sth* | **take** *sth* **in**

to notice all the details or qualities of something when you look at it: *She felt furious with Guy as she strolled around the crowded exhibition, too preoccupied to take in much of her surroundings.* | *The next morning the kids went on a pony ride while I stepped back and took in some of the breathtaking scenery.*

6 **take in** *sth* | **take** *sth* **in**

especially spoken to take your car to a garage, or take a broken piece of equipment to a shop to be repaired: *I've got to take the car in tomorrow – there's something wrong with the exhaust.*

7 **take in a movie/show etc**

AmE to go to see a film, play etc: *On Saturday night we can take in a movie and maybe get a pizza afterwards.* | *I know they're cultured. They'd much rather take in a ballet than go to a bar.*

8 **take in** *sth* | **take** *sth* **in**

AmE to collect or earn an amount of money: *How much did the store take in today?* | *Denver International Airport must take in at least $304 million in revenues next year to cover its operating costs.*

9 **take in** *sth* | **take** *sth* **in**

to make a piece of clothing narrower so that it fits you: *I've got a skirt that's quite nice, but it needs taking in.* | *Ellie stared at the dress critically. "It wouldn't look so bad if we took off all the frills and took the waist in a little."*

● OPPOSITE: **let out**

10 **take in** *sb* | **take** *sb* **in**

if the police take you in, they make you go to a police station, because they think you know something about a crime or are guilty of one: *Morris was taken in by the police and charged with armed robbery.*

take sb in for questioning *Mrs Roxie Farmer was taken in for questioning at Royal Hill police station, but claimed she knew nothing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **detain** *formal*

11 **take in air/food/water**

if people or animals take in air, food, or water, it goes into their bodies: *Jellyfish take in air through their skin.* | *If you take in fewer calories than your body needs, you will lose fat.*

intake N [C]
the amount of food, drink etc that you take into your body: *Lower your intake of fat and alcohol to improve your health.*

an intake of breath
when you breathe in, especially suddenly because you are shocked or angry: *She heard a sharp intake of breath and muttered a curse before he slammed the phone down.*

12 **take in washing/sewing etc**

to earn money by doing washing or sewing for other people in your own home: *My mother took in washing, and cleaned people's houses on a casual basis.*

13 **take in** *sb* | **take** *sb* **in**

if an organization such as school, college, or hospital takes you in, they accept you as a student or patient: *The college plans to take in more overseas students next year.*

intake N [C]
the people who are accepted by an organization at a particular time, or the number of people accepted by an organization at a particular time: *This years' intake on the diploma course is particularly good.* | *an increase in the intake of foreign students*

take into

1 **take** *sb* **into** *sth*

BrE if something takes you into a particular job or activity, it makes you decide to start doing it: *What took you into acting in the first place?*

2 **take sth into the future/ into the next century**

to make something more modern, so that it will be good and effective in the future: *We are designing new buildings that will take the city into the next century.* | *The party needs a new voice, a new vision. It needs a new leader to take it into the future.*

take off

1 **take off** *sth* **take** *sth* **off**

to remove something that you are wearing: *She took her clothes off and got into bed.* | *"Hot chocolate?" he asked Dooley, when they'd taken off their coats.* | *I forgot to take off my make-up last night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **remove**

● OPPOSITE: **put on**

2 **take off**

if a plane or bird takes off, it leaves the ground and rises into the air: *The plane took off into the night sky.* | *What time does your plane take off?* | *A dog jumped into the lake, and the ducks took off and flew over the park.*

● COMPARE: **lift off**

● OPPOSITE: **land**

take-off N [C,U]
when a plane rises into the air at the beginning of a flight: *We have to check in at least one hour before take-off.*

T

3 **take** *sth* **off**

to arrange to spend some time away from your normal work in order to have a holiday or do something else: *Why don't you take some time off – you need a break.*

take a day/week etc off *I take two weeks off every summer and go canoeing, far away from phones or any other links with the office.*

take Monday, Tuesday etc off *I'm taking Thursday off to go Christmas shopping.*

4 **take off**

to suddenly start being successful: *Handler was a young actor whose career was just about to take off.* | *Internet shopping will really take off when people become convinced that it's safe to type in their credit card numbers.*

take-off N [U]
when a product, business, industry etc starts being successful: *An agricultural revolution took place in the eighteenth century, resulting in an economic take-off.*

5 **take off**

informal to leave somewhere suddenly, especially without telling anyone: *What's wrong with Ian? He just took off without saying goodbye.* | *She was such a wild young girl – I was afraid that one day she might just take off and disappear.*

6 **take** *sb* **off**

to move someone away to a place, or make them go there with you

+ to *Two people had been dug out of the snow by rescuers, and taken off to hospital.* | *Myong-Hwan had been home less than ten days when the police came to the house and took him off to jail.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cart off** *informal*

7 **take** *sb* **off**

BrE informal to copy the way that someone speaks or behaves in order to make people laugh: *Peter's really good at taking people off. He does Tony Blair brilliantly – it's so funny.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **mimic, impersonate**

take-off N [C]
when someone copies the way that someone else speaks or behaves in order to make people laugh: *Donna did a brilliant take-off of the principal.*

8 **take yourself off**

informal, especially BrE to go somewhere: *I took myself off for a walk, hoping to forget about my problems.*

+ to *Please, Norman, take yourself off to a tailor and get yourself a decent suit.* | *His wife had complained of a headache and had taken herself off to bed.*

9 **take** *sb* **off** *sth*

to stop someone from doing a particular type of work, usually because they are doing it badly: *Detective Bachinski was taken off the case, and is suspected of taking bribes.* | *The psychiatrist thinks I'm insane, and they're going to take me off combat duty and send me home.*

10 **take off** *sth* **take** *sth* **off** **take** *sth* **off** *sth*

to take a particular amount or number from a total: *When I complained, they agreed to take $10 off the price.* | *Will the examiner take points off for spelling mistakes?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **deduct**

● OPPOSITE: **add on**

11 **take** *sb* **off** *sth*

to stop giving someone a particular type of medicine: *Dr Brown's taken me off Prozac – it wasn't doing me any good.* | *"You act like my mom before the doctor took her off those pills," said Stu. "They made her like a robot."*

● OPPOSITE: **put on**

12 **take** *sth* **off**

BrE if a bus, train, or plane service is taken off, it is stopped: *The 6.15 train to London has been taken off.* | *People who live in rural areas are complaining that many of their bus services have been taken off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **axe**

13 **take** *sth* **off**

if a play or a television or radio show is taken off, it is no longer performed or broadcast: *The play failed to attract a big enough audience, and was taken off after only a few nights.*

take sth off the air (=stop broadcasting a television or radio show) *TV comedy show 'Nothing Sacred' was taken off the air, after thousands of people wrote in to complain that it was offensive to Christians.*

take on

1 **take on** *sth/sb* | **take** *sth/sb* **on**

to agree to do some work or to accept a responsibility: *Don't take on too much work – the extra cash isn't worth it.* | *When Mr Clifford married a young widow with five children, he must have known what he was taking on.* | *Madonna took on her biggest role ever in Alan Parker's movie 'Evita'.* | *a school that takes on difficult pupils*

2 **take on** *sb* | **take** *sb* **on**

to start to employ someone: *We're taking on 50 new staff this year.* | *She had an interview with a law firm in Glasgow and they took her on.*

3 **take on** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to begin to have a particular quality or appearance: *Matt's face took on a worried look.* | *Seemingly innocent words like 'brown' and 'hamburger' take on new meaning in drug users' slang.* | *The role of hospital managers has taken on increased importance since the reorganization of the health service.*

* SIMILAR TO: **assume** *formal*

4 **take on** *sb* | **take** *sb* **on** NOT PASSIVE

to compete against someone or start an argument or fight with someone, especially someone who is bigger or more powerful than you: *Nigeria will take on Argentina in the first round of the World Cup on Saturday.* | *Mason is ready to take on Mike Tyson for the championship title.* | *Opposition groups were preparing to take on the Communist Party in Bulgaria's first free elections.*

+ at *I don't want to fight, but I'll take you on at any game you like.*

5 **take on** *sth* | **take** *sth* **on**

to start having a debt by borrowing money: *I feel sorry for young people now, being forced to take on huge mortgages.* | *The banks are always looking for ways to encourage customers to take on more debt.*

6 **take on** *sth* | **take** *sth* **on**

if a ship, plane, train etc takes on passengers, goods, or fuel during a journey, passengers get on or goods or fuel are put into it when it stops somewhere: *The ship stopped in the port of Mukalla, and took on a cargo of dates.* | *The flight goes via Bahrain, where we stop for refuelling and take on more passengers.*

7 **take it on yourself to do** *sth*

SEE **take upon/on**

take out

1 **take out** *sth* | **take** *sth* **out**

to remove something from a bag, box, your pocket etc: *Scott felt in his pocket and took out a bunch of keys.* | *With clammy fingers he took out a packet of cigarettes and tried to light one.*

2 **take** *sb* **out**

to go with someone to a place such as a restaurant, theatre, or club, when you are paying for everything, or when you are showing them a place that they have not been to before: *These friends of my parents came over from Greece, and I had to take their son out and show him around.* | *Charles felt terribly nervous. Would it be obvious that this was the first time he'd taken a girl out?*

+ to *It was Mother's Day, so we took Mom out to lunch.*

+ for *Tommy had taken Cilla out for dinner a few times, and they had got along really well.*

3 **take out a loan/mortgage/ insurance policy etc**

to arrange to start using a financial service provided by a bank or insurance company: *Wheatley took out an insurance policy that would have paid him more than $1 million in the event of a serious injury.* | *I just took out a $100,000 loan to buy a new boat.*

4 **take out** *sth* | **take** *sth* **out**

to get money from a bank: *I took out £300 to spend on holiday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **withdraw**

5 **take out** *sth* | **take** *sth* **out**

to borrow a book from a library: *You can't take more than six books out at once.*

* SIMILAR TO: **borrow**

6 **take out** *sb/sth* | **take** *sb/sth* **out**

informal to kill someone or destroy something, especially with a gun or bomb etc: *Cruise missiles took out enemy radar, and then air strikes on military targets began.* | *Our order were to take out the sentries guarding the bridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kill, destroy**

7 **take out** *sb* | **take** *sb* **out**

informal to hit someone and make them become unconscious: *Lewis was a big guy,*

T

who looked as if he could take a man out with one punch.

* SIMILAR TO: **knock out**

8 **take** *sth* **out**

to spend some time not working or not doing what you usually do

take time out *Why don't you take some time out to be with the children?*

take a year out BrE (=spend a year travelling or doing jobs, between leaving school and starting a university course) *Andy's thinking of taking a year out and travelling round Europe.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

9 **take out** *sth*

BrE to go to a court of law and make an official complaint about someone, or get an official order telling someone that they must or must not do something: *His wife left him because of domestic violence, and took out a court order to keep him away from her.* | *Local people took out a private lawsuit against the oil company over water contamination.*

take out a summons (=get an official order that says someone must appear in a court of law) *The police advised her to take out a summons against her neighbours for noise nuisance.*

T

take out of

1 **take it out of** *sb* **/take a lot out of** *sb*

informal to make you feel very tired: *Starting a new job takes a lot out of you.* | *Cilla flopped down on the couch. "Looking after children really takes it out of you – they've got so much energy."*

2 **take** *sb* **out of himself/herself**

BrE to stop someone from thinking about their problems and feeling unhappy: *Reading interesting books is a great way of taking you out of yourself.* | *It's not good for a young girl to be on her own so much – she needs someone to take her out of herself.*

3 **take** *sth* **out of** *sth*

to make an activity less difficult, less boring, less enjoyable etc

take the worry/strain/boredom etc out of sth *Comprehensive travel insurance takes the worry out of holidaying abroad.* | *software that takes the boredom out of formatting disks*

take the fun/joy etc out of sth *These new regulations take all the joy out of motoring.*

* SIMILAR TO: **remove**

take out on

take *sth* **out on** *sb*

to treat someone badly because you are angry and upset, even though it is not their fault

take it out on sb *Don't take it out on me – it's not my fault you've had a bad day.* | *My husband is very unhappy at the moment, and has been taking it out on me and the children.*

take your anger/frustration etc out on sb *Well, whatever's happened, for God's sake stop taking your frustrations out on me. I'm absolutely sick of your moods.*

take over

1 **take over** | **take over** *sth* | **take** *sth* **over**

to start being responsible for something or doing a job that someone else was responsible for before you: *Bonnie Fuller is to take over the editor's job at Cosmopolitan magazine.* | *We'll stop halfway, and I'll take over the driving.* | *Legendary coach Shula announced his retirement after 26 years with the team. So who will take over?*

+ as *TOKYO, Jan 11 – Ryutaro Hashimoto took over as Japan's prime minister today.*

+ from *Edouard Michelin took over from Francois, his father, as head of the family firm.*

2 **take over** *sth* | **take** *sth* **over**

to get control of a company by buying it or by buying most of its shares (=the equal parts into which the ownership of a company is divided): *Midland Bank was taken over by Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank last year.* | *The engineering company T–I has taken over the Dowty Group, based in Cheltenham. City experts predict that hundreds of jobs may be lost.*

takeover N [C]
when a company gets control of another company by buying most of its shares: *Following its takeover of Coalite, Anglo United are selling eight businesses worth $300m.*

takeover bid (=an attempt to get control of a company) *Kingfisher fought off a £1.8 billion takeover bid by Dixons.*

3 **take over** | **take over** *sth* | **take** *sth* **over**

to get control of a place or a political organization, especially by using force: *In January 1976, Moroccan forces took over Western Sahara.* | *The narcotics dealers have taken over the city. They control businesses, politics,*

everything. | *When the communists took over in 1945, they were determined to industrialize Yugoslavia.*

takeover N [SINGULAR]
when someone gets control of a place, especially by using force: *the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia*

4 **take over** *sth* | **take** *sth* **over**

if a particular kind of people or things take over a place, large numbers of them appear there, so that there are more of them than were there before – use this when you wish the changes had not happened: *Every summer the town is taken over by tourists.* | *The garden had been seriously neglected, and had been completely taken over by weeds and brambles.*

5 **take over/take over** *sth*

if something takes over or if it takes over your life, it starts to have a very big effect on you and you do not think about anything else: *When you run your own company, it's easy to let work take over completely.*

take over your life *Once the baby is born, it will completely take over your life.*

6 **take over**

if a feeling takes over, you start to feel it strongly and it controls your behaviour: *I saw the ball coming towards me, then my instincts took over. I leapt in to the air and caught it.* | *She knew she had to stay calm – she mustn't allow panic to take over.*

7 **take over** *sth* | **take** *sth* **over**

to start living in or using a house or other building: *I'm going to be working in Singapore for six months, so a friend is taking over my flat.* | *Stacey's bookstore is expanding, and taking over a larger building on Market Street.*

8 **take over** | **take over** *sth*

to start to control what other people are doing, in an annoying way: *This was a nice place to work until she came to work here and started trying to take over.* | *It's always difficult discussing things when there's a man in the room. They always take over the conversation.*

take over from

take over from *sth/sb*

especially BrE to become more successful, popular, or important than something or someone else, and replace them as the most successful, popular, or important one: *Digital cameras will eventually take over from conventional cameras.*

+ as *Mel Gibson has taken over from Arnold Schwarzenegger as Hollywood's most popular actor, according to a survey.* | *London is taking over from Paris as Europe's fashion capital.*

* SIMILAR TO: **supersede, replace**

take round *BrE*

SEE **take around**

take through

take *sb* **through** *sth*

to show someone how something is done by explaining all the different parts or stages to them, or by doing it with them: *The dance teacher took her class through a new routine.* | *It was only a short scene, but the director took the actors through it twelve times before he was satisfied with it.* | *I'm just going to take you through the business plan, and then I'll answer any questions.*

● COMPARE: **go through**

take to

1 **take to** *sb/sth* NOT PASSIVE

to start to like a person or place, especially when you first meet them or first go there: *I took to Paul as soon as I met him.* | *Ray's brother Billy came running in, and we took to each other right away.* | *"How's your daughter getting on at university?" "Oh she loves it. She took to it straight away."* | *Muriel never took to country life, and always longed to go back to the city.*

● OPPOSITE: **take against** *BrE*

2 **take to** *sth*

to start doing something regularly

take to doing sth *A group of us took to meeting in a bar called Harry's every day after work.* | *She goes to concerts and buys trendy clothes, and has even taken to wearing black nail varnish.*

take to drink/drugs (=start drinking a lot of alcohol or using drugs) *When Tom's wife left him, he fell apart, and took to drink, drugs, and gambling.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start**

3 **take to** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to enjoy and be good at doing something, especially the first time you try it: *Yanto jumped onto the motorbike and started it. He took to it like a natural.*

take to sth like a duck to water (=learn how to do something very easily because you are naturally good at it) *Lillie went to her first tap dancing lesson when she was four, and took to it like a duck to water.*

4 **take to** *sth*

to go into or on to something

take to the hills/lifeboats etc (=in order to escape from danger) *Villagers were fleeing their homes in terror and taking to the hills.* | *The ship was now ablaze, and the only escape was to take to the lifeboats.*

take to the streets (=in order to protest) *After a student was killed by the police, an estimated five hundred thousand protestors took to the streets.*

take to your bed (=because you are ill) *My fever returned and I took to my bed.*

take to the road/air/skies/seas etc (=start a journey by road, air, or sea) *Around 5 million Californians will take to the road over the long holiday weekend. | There was a distant roar as a squadron of Mig 15s took to the skies.*

take up

1 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to start doing a particular activity or kind of work: *When did Bryan take up golf? | The government is trying to encourage more graduates to take up teaching.*

2 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to start to have a new position of responsibility: *Peter Stefanini is leaving the company to take up a directorship with Croda International.*

take up a post *Professor Andrew Likierman is to take up his post as Chief Accountancy Adviser to the Treasury on December 1.*

T

3 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to use a particular amount of time, space, or effort: *A new baby will take up all your time and energy. | I had an essay to write, which took up most of the weekend. | My old clothes take up a lot of space, but I just can't throw any of them away. | I don't want to take up too much of your valuable time, but I need to have your opinion on something.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **occupy** *formal*

4 **take up an offer/opportunity/challenge**

to accept an offer, opportunity, or challenge (=something difficult and exciting that you have not done before) *So far a quarter of Britain's schools have taken up the offer of half-price computers. | Each year more and more amateur runners take up the challenge of the New York Marathon. | The long-term unemployed are being encouraged to take up training opportunities that will increase their chances of finding employment.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **accept**

● OPPOSITE: **reject, turn down**

take-up N [U]
BrE the rate at which people buy or accept something that is being offered: *Despite all the advertisements, the take-up has been slow.*

5 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to try to make people pay attention to a problem or an unfair situation, by complaining or protesting, or by arguing in support of someone's rights: *Father Ramirez took up the issue of land reform on behalf of peasant farmers.*

+ with *I'm going to take the matter up with my lawyer. | If you are not satisfied with our service, you'd better take it up with the manager.*

take up a cause (=support a principle or someone's rights) *Protestors are demanding equal rights for gay men and women, and several newspapers have taken up their cause.*

take up sb's case (=argue in support of someone's legal rights) *MP Stephen Collins has taken up the case of Bob Doyle, a British lorry driver, wrongly imprisoned in the Middle East.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pursue**

6 **take up a suggestion/recommendation/proposal**

to do what someone suggests or advises that you should do: *The government asked the committee to write a report, and then failed to take up any of its recommendations. | No one has taken up our suggestion that the working week should be cut to 30 hours.*

7 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to start to use ideas, designs, or ways of doing things that someone else has developed: *Keynes's economic theories were taken up by political parties throughout Europe and America. | The styles that appear on the Paris catwalks are then taken up by high street stores. | The technique was developed by researcher Stephen Smyth, and was later taken up by the communications industry, and used in their systems worldwide.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **adopt**

8 **take up a position**

to move to the exact place where you are supposed to be, so that you are ready to do something: *US soldiers took up positions a few hundred yards away, to block a road leading to the canal. | The flower sellers took up their positions in the market square.*

9 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

literary to pick something up and hold or carry it: *Rouget took up his pen, and began to write. | She flopped down on the bed, staring at me as she took up a cigarette and lit it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pick up**

● OPPOSITE: **put down**

10 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to continue a story or activity that was started by someone else, or that you started before but had to stop: *Last October pollution reached record levels. Our environment correspondent Peter Brown takes up the story...*

take up where sb left off *After the war I returned to college, hoping to take up where I'd left off. | Marco's new wife turned all her attention to looking after him, taking up where his mother left off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick up, resume**

11 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to remove something that is fixed to the floor or the ground: *We're going to take up the carpet and put down a wood-block floor.*

12 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to reduce the length of a skirt, dress, pair of trousers etc: *This dress will be OK if I just take it up a few inches.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shorten**

● OPPOSITE: **let down**

● COMPARE: **take in, let out**

13 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

to start singing a song that someone else has started singing, or start shouting something that someone else has started shouting: *A woman shouted "Hallelujah", and those around her took up the cry. | She banged the piano keys and the crowd began to take up the refrain.*

14 **take up** *sth* | **take** *sth* **up**

if a plant or animal takes up a substance, that substance goes into it: *The seeds of some aquatic plants take up water and swell quickly. | As we get older our bodies become less efficient in taking up some nutrients.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take in**

take up on

1 **take** *sb* **up on** *sth*

to accept an offer that someone has made: *I was surprised that she didn't take me up on my offer to drive her to Chimayo. | "I'll cook you dinner if you like." "I might just take you up on that."*

* SIMILAR TO: **accept**

2 **take** *sb* **up on** *sth*

to ask someone to explain what they have just said, because you disagree with them: *Let me take you up on one or two of those points. | He was quick, she noticed, to take her up on any casual remark.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick sb up on sth** *BrE*

take up with

1 **be taken up with** *sth*

to be very busy doing something and give it all of your attention: *She was so taken up with the children, that she had not noticed her husband was unhappy. | Jo's completely taken up with work at the moment.*

2 **take up with** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

informal to become friendly with someone and spend a lot of time with them, especially someone who will be a bad influence on you: *Now Janet has taken up with millionaire singer, Starbuck Williams. | He's taken up with a group of lads from Rhyl. He came home blind drunk last night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get in with sb**

take upon/on

take it upon/on yourself to do *sth*

formal to decide to do something without asking anyone for permission or approval: *A junior official had taken it upon himself to hand my report to the press. | My ex-husband took it on himself to make these arrangements when he had no right to do so.*

TALK

talked, talked, talking

talk around ALSO talk round *BrE*

talk around/round *sth*

to discuss a subject in a general way without really dealing with the important parts of it: *They wasted a whole hour just talking around the problem, and never coming directly to the point.*

T

talk at

talk at *sb*

to talk to someone without giving them a chance to speak or without listening to what they are trying to tell you: *We teachers spend a lot of time talking at children. We ought to spend much more time listening to what they have to say.*

talk back

talk back

to answer your parent, teacher, manager etc rudely after they have criticized you or told you to do something

+ to *I'd never let a child of mine talk back to me like that. | Another City player, Allen, was shown a red card for talking back to the referee.*

* SIMILAR TO: **answer back**

talk down

1 **talk** *sth* **down** | **talk down** *sth*

BrE to talk in a way that makes something seem less good or successful than it really is: *The Prime Minister accused his critics of talking Britain down. | pessimists who talk down the achievements of our manufacturing industries*

2 **talk down** *sth* | **talk** *sth* **down** | **talk** *sb* **down**

to try to reduce the cost of something, or keep it low, by persuading someone that it should not be so high

talk down prices/wages etc *Employers will do everything they can to talk down wages.* | *the ability of a dealer to talk the price down while a transaction is being negotiated*

talk sb down to sth (=persuade someone to reduce a price to a particular amount) *She was asking $300 rent, but we talked her down to $220.*

3 **talk** *sb/sth* **down** | **talk down** *sb/sth*

to give instructions to someone who is operating the controls of an aircraft, so that they can bring the aircraft down safely, especially when there is a problem: *If a trainee pilot got into difficulties, a flying instructor would talk him down.*

4 **talk** *sb* **down** | **talk down** *sb*

to persuade someone to come down from a high place when they are threatening to jump off and kill themselves: *Police with loudhailers were trying to talk down a youth threatening to jump from a 29th-floor window.*

talk down to

talk down to *sb*

to talk to someone as if you believe that they are less intelligent than you are: *My father always explained things and never talked down to me.* | *You have to realize that kids are not stupid – they know when they're being talked down to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **patronize**

talk into

talk *sb* **into** *sth*

to persuade someone to do something by explaining to them why they should do it: *I should never have let you talk me into this crazy scheme.* | *"Why did you go with him?" "Well, he sort of talked me into it!"*

talk sb into doing sth *If Louis tries to talk you into investing in his business, just say no.*

talk yourself into doing sth (=make yourself believe that you should do something) *It isn't true, but she's talked herself into believing it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **persuade, talk sb round** *BrE*

● OPPOSITE: **talk out of**

talk out

1 **talk** *sth* **out** | **talk out** *sth*

informal to discuss a problem with someone thoroughly in order to agree on a way of solving it: *We needed time to talk things out and decide what was best for the future.*

+ with *If there was a problem, she could always talk it out with her mother.*

talk it out *Instead of shouting at each other, why don't you sit down and talk it out quietly and calmly?*

2 **talk yourself out**

to talk so much that you have nothing more to say: *Flora listened patiently, hoping he would talk himself out and go away.*

talk out of

talk *sb* **out of** *sth*

to persuade someone not to do something that they were intending to do, by explaining to them why they should not do it: *If you're still determined to leave, don't let them talk you out of it.*

talk sb out of doing sth *She tried to talk me out of leaving.*

talk yourself out of sth *especially BrE* (=make yourself believe that you should not do or feel something) *She did her best to talk herself out of her feelings for Guido, but she knew in her heart that she loved him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dissuade sb from doing sth**

● OPPOSITE: **talk into**

talk over

talk *sth* **over** | **talk over** *sth*

to discuss a problem or situation calmly with someone, in order to understand it better and decide how to deal with it: *If you're worried about your work, come and see me and we'll talk it over.* | *Teenagers need a chance to talk over their sexual feelings and anxieties.*

+ with *It's often helpful to talk things over with a professional counsellor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **discuss**

talk round
SEE ALSO **talk around**

talk *sb* **round**

BrE to persuade someone to change their opinion and agree with you: *Dad doesn't like the idea of us going away together, but I'm sure I can talk him round.*

+ to *We could never talk the girl round to our way of thinking.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring sb round**

T

talk through

1 **talk** *sth* **through** **talk through** *sth*

to discuss all the details of a problem, idea, plan etc in order to understand it better and decide what to do: *I'm sure if we sit down and talk things through, we can come to some sort of agreement.* | *By allowing patients to talk through their problems, doctors can help them to cope with their illness.*

+ with *Before you make your final decision, talk it through with someone you trust.*

2 **talk** *sb* **through** *sth*

to explain something slowly and carefully to someone so that they understand it and deal with it: *If you have a problem with the software, just phone us and we'll talk you through it.* | *Dr Cameron spent some time talking me through the operation, so that I would know exactly what they were going to do to me.*

talk to

talk to *sb*

spoken to speak to someone severely and tell them that their behaviour, work etc is not good enough: *I'm going to have to talk to Barry. He was late again this morning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tell off**

talking-to N [SINGULAR]
informal if you give someone a talking-to, you speak to them severely and tell them that their behaviour, work etc is not good enough: *If you ask me, what that girl needs is a good talking-to.*

talk up

1 **talk up** *sth* **talk** *sth* **up**

to keep saying how good or successful something is, especially when you want to make other people interested or persuade them that is very good: *Travel agencies have been talking the place up as a great new tourist resort.* | *Businessmen remain gloomy, despite the government's efforts to talk up the economy.*

2 **talk up** *sth* **talk** *sth* **up**

to try to increase the price or value of something by telling people that it is worth a lot: *Some optimists are still talking up share prices.* | *The United States is unlikely to want to talk the dollar up, as there are fears that this would harm exports.*

TAMP

tamped, tamped, tamping

tamp down

tamp down *sth* **tamp** *sth* **down**

BrE to press a substance down so that it becomes more solid and firm: *The old man nodded and tamped down the tobacco in his pipe.* | *Tamp down the soil before you lay the paving slabs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **press down**

TAMPER

tampered, tampered, tampered

tamper with

tamper with *sth*

to make changes to something in a way that is dangerous, illegal, or has a bad effect, when you have no right to do this: *Someone had tampered with the brakes of the car.* | *The police were accused of tampering with the evidence.* | *Congress, however, had opposed any such tampering with the Bill of Rights.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **interfere with**

TANGLE

tangled, tangled, tangling

tangle up

be tangled up

if string, wire, rope etc is tangled up, it is twisted together in a way that is annoying because you cannot easily separate it and use it: *The wires were all tangled up and I couldn't work out which was the one for the fax machine.*

get tangled up *How has this rope got so tangled up?*

tangle up in

1 **get tangled up in** *sth*

to become caught or trapped in something such as branches, ropes, or wires, and be unable to get free: *Dolphins often get tangled up in nets used for tuna fishing.*

be tangled up in sth *My legs were tangled up in the weeds in the river.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be caught in**

2 **get tangled up in** *sth*

to become involved in a situation that it is difficult to get out of: *I managed to get myself tangled up in a real mess!*

be tangled up in sth *Don't you realize that you're tangled up in something that will probably end in disaster?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be mixed up in sth**

tangle with

1 **tangle with** *sb/sth*

AmE informal to argue or fight with someone or something: *Garamendi tangled with politicians about compensation for California residents.*

2 **tangle with** *sb*

AmE informal to play a game against another person or team: *The Arizona Wildcats get ready to tangle with North Carolina today in Chapel Hill.*

TANK

tanked, tanked, tanking

tank up

1 **get tanked up** *BrE informal* **tank up** *AmE informal*

to drink a lot of alcohol, especially so that you become very drunk: *He went off and got tanked up at the local pub. | The fans tank up at the bar before the game.*

be tanked up *Some of the lads were so tanked up they could hardly walk.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get drunk**

2 **tank up** **tank up** *sth*

AmE informal to put fuel in a car, plane etc: *The plane will stop in Oakland to tank up for the flight to Tokyo.*

TAP

tapped, tapped, tapping

tap for

tap *sb* **for** *sth*

informal to persuade someone to give you money or information: *Raoul's been here again this afternoon, trying to tap Gerard for a loan. | Back in my apartment, I re-read the article and considered who I could tap for more information.*

tap in

tap in *sth* **tap** *sth* **in**

to put information, numbers etc into a computer or other machine, by pressing the buttons on it: *Tap in your personal identification number, then tell the machine how much money you want to take out from your account.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **key in, enter**

tap into

1 **tap into** *sth*

to use energy, information, money etc that comes from a large supply: *The Soviets have been tapping into oil supplies under the Caspian Sea since the 1940s. | The new software allows consumers to tap into the Internet via their phones.*

2 **tap into** *sth*

to use a computer to illegally get into other people's computer systems, in order to find and use information: *The court was told that Bedworth had managed to tap into computers at universities all over the world.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hack into**

3 **tap into** *sth*

to understand what people are interested in or worried about, and make use of this in what you do: *As a teacher you have to tap into your students interests and approach a topic from that angle. | Both films were made in the 1930s and tapped into public anxiety about the prospect of war.*

4 **tap into the market**

to start using an area as a place to sell your company's products: *The conference will provide a marvellous opportunity for the company to tap into the vast markets of North America.*

tap out

1 **tap out** *sth* **tap** *sth* **out**

to produce a series of sounds by hitting a surface lightly and regularly: *As he played he tapped out the rhythm with his foot.*

2 **tap out** *sth* **tap** *sth* **out**

to write words or numbers on a typewriter, computer, or other machine, especially in a noisy way: *With one finger, Maya started tapping out the opening paragraph of her story. | The secretary grabbed the phone and began tapping out the number.*

3 **tap out** *sb* **tap** *sb* **out**

AmE to use all someone's energy or money so that they are unable to fight against you any longer: *It's part of their strategy to keep us in court and tap us out.*

TAPE

taped, taped, taping

tape up

tape *sth* **up** **tape up** *sth*

to fasten tape around something, in order to protect it or hold it together: *The box should be carefully taped up to avoid any damage to the goods.*

TAPER

tapered, tapered, tapering

taper off

1 **taper off**

to gradually become less in amount, strength, size etc: *The rise in the value of the yen started to taper off at the end of the 80s. | Oil production tapered off and the country was forced to find new sources of revenue.*

2 **taper off**

if something tapers off, it becomes narrower at one end: *The road was narrower here, and it eventually tapered off into a track.*

● OPPOSITE: **open out, widen**

TART

tarted, tarted, tarting

tart up

1 **tart** *sth* **up** | **tart up** *sth*

BrE informal to try to make a place look more attractive or more modern by decorating or changing it – used especially to show disapproval: *The hotel's been tarted up now, and has lost a lot of its charm.* | *The new owners had tried to tart the place up and make it look like an American-style diner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smarten up, spruce up**

2 **tart yourself up**

BrE informal to put on clothes, make-up, jewellery etc in order to make yourself look more attractive – used about girls or women, especially to show disapproval or when speaking humorously: *Gina was one of those girls who like to tart themselves up in tight skirts and high heels when they go out in the evening.*

get (yourself) tarted up *We'd better go upstairs and get ourselves tarted up.*

be tarted up *They were all tarted up for a night on the town.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doll yourself up** *informal*

3 **tart** *sth* **up** | **tart up** *sth*

BrE informal to make something seem more interesting and exciting by changing it in some way – used especially to show disapproval: *If these news shows don't attract more viewers, the pressure will be on to tart them up a bit.* | *He had to tart up his designs before they were accepted.*

TATTLE

tattled, tattled, tattling

tattle on

tattle on *sb*

AmE informal to tell a person in authority about something wrong that someone has done – used especially about children telling their parents, teacher etc: *I suppose you'll go and tattle on me!*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell on** *informal*, **sneak on** *BrE informal*

TAX

taxed, taxed, taxing

tax with

tax *sb* **with** *sth*

formal to say that someone has done something wrong, and ask them for an explanation: *Critics have taxed the government with failing to carry out a proper investigation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **accuse (of)**

TEAM

teamed, teamed, teaming

team up

team up

to join together with another person or organization in order to do something together: *Henry Laconte and Guy Forget teamed up to give France a crushing 5-0 victory.*

+ with *Chrissie Hynde teamed up with reggae band UB40 to record the old Sonny and Cher hit 'I got you babe'.* | *WWF has teamed up with tour operator Discover the World to offer trips to wild places and conservation projects.*

TEAR

tore, torn, tearing

tear apart

1 **tear** *sth* **apart** | **tear apart** *sth*

to make people argue or fight with each other, so that a relationship ends, or a family, group, country etc becomes divided: *For years Mozambique had been torn apart by civil war.* | *The stresses and strains of modern life are tearing families apart.*

tear itself apart *After President Tito died Yugoslavia began tearing itself apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

2 **tear** *sth* **apart** | **tear apart** *sth*

to make something break into pieces by pulling it violently in different directions: *Willy grabbed the loaf of bread, tearing it apart and eating it hungrily.* | *The fox is torn apart by the hounds in a matter of seconds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

3 **tear** *sth* **apart** | **tear apart** *sth*

to destroy a building or a room completely and often violently: *The factory was torn apart by a huge explosion.*

4 **tear** *sth* **apart** | **tear apart** *sth*

to criticize an idea, piece of work etc very severely: *The book was torn apart by the critics when it first came out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

T

5 **tear** *sb* **apart** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to make someone feel very upset and worried: *Kelly couldn't bear to think of him with another woman. It was tearing her apart.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

tear at

tear at *sth/sb*

to pull violently at something or someone: *Lucy tore at the envelope and quickly read the letter. | She leapt at him in a fit of rage, tearing at his face.*

tear away

tear *sb* **away**

to make someone stop doing something, when they are so interested in doing it that they do not want to stop: *Once he's in front of the television, it's practically impossible to tear him away from it.*

tear yourself away *Do you think you could tear yourself away from that computer for just one minute and listen to me? | We don't see much of Stella these days. She can't seem to tear herself away from her new boyfriend.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drag away** *informal*

T

be torn between

1 **be torn between** *sth* **and** *sth*

if you are torn between two things, you find it difficult to choose one of them or to decide which one is more important to you: *For a long time Clarissa had been torn between her family and her career. | It seemed a very long way and I was torn between going back and going on.*

2 **be torn between** *sth*

if you are torn between two different feelings, you feel both of them strongly: *He would come running up the stairs, torn between anxiety for her and fear of disturbing Miss Willard.*

tear down

tear *sth* **down** | **tear down** *sth*

to deliberately destroy a building, wall etc because it is not needed any more or is not safe: *Broadway's Fulton theatre was torn down in 1982 to make way for a hotel. | The church had been so badly damaged that it had to be torn down and rebuilt.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **demolish, pull down**

tear into

tear into *sb/sth*

informal to criticize someone or something very severely and often unfairly: *After the game the manager really tore into the team.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay into**

tear off

tear off *sth* | **tear** *sth* **off**

to take off a piece of clothing as quickly as you can: *Ben tore off his jacket and dived into the river.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rip off, strip off**

tear up

1 **tear** *sth* **up** | **tear up** *sth*

to tear something made of paper or cloth into a lot of small pieces because you want to destroy it: *Aldo read the letter quickly, then tore it up and threw it on the fire. | Demonstrators outside the hotel tore up pictures of the president and sang an old nationalist song.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rip up**

2 **tear** *sth* **up** | **tear up** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to destroy or damage something an area of land: *Huge areas of rainforest are being torn up every day by the logging companies.*

3 **tear up an agreement/contract etc**

to state that you no longer accept an agreement, contract etc, and will not be controlled by what it says: *The Football Association has threatened to tear up its agreement with the BBC unless a compromise can be found.*

TEASE

teased, teased, teasing

tease out

1 **tease out** *sth* | **tease** *sth* **out**

to find and understand new information or meaning when it is not clear or obvious: *Lothar was considered to be a scholar, able to tease out new meanings from ancient texts. | Now business researchers are beginning to tease out exactly what makes a good manager.*

2 **tease** *sth* **out of** *sb*

to persuade someone to tell you something that they do not want to tell you: *I finally managed to tease the truth out of George.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **drag out, prise out**

3 **tease out** *sth* | **tease** *sth* **out**

BrE to remove something from somewhere by pulling it very gently and slowly: *Oscar slowly reached into his trouser pocket and teased out a fresh handkerchief. | She sat at the window, rubbing her hair dry and carefully teasing out the knots.*

TEE

teed, teed, teeing

tee off

1 **tee off**

to hit the ball for the first time at the beginning of a game of golf, or when you move on to the next hole: *Mr Sangster will tee off at 8 am today, at the tournament in Jersey.* | *David Miller had just teed off at the fifteenth hole in the competition.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drive off**

2 **tee off**

AmE to begin an event or activity: *The celebration teed off with a round of champagne.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, kick off**

3 **tee** *sb* **off** **tee off** *sb*

AmE *informal* to make someone angry: *It really tees me off that he never helps with the housework!*

* SIMILAR TO: **annoy, piss off** *informal*

tee up

1 **tee up**

to play golf, especially in a competition: *Fred Couples and David Love will tee up in Madrid on November 5th.*

2 **tee up/tee up the ball**

to put a golf ball on a tee (= a short stick placed in the ground), so that it is ready for you to hit

tee up the ball *We watched him tee up the ball, then step back.*

TEEM

teemed, teemed, teeming

teem down

teem down USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE to rain very heavily: *At that moment the rain began teeming down, and we all ran for shelter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**

teem with

teem with *sth/sb* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a place is teeming with people or animals, it is very full of them: *Almost all of the Greek islands are teeming with tourists in the summer.*

be teeming with life *It may look like just a muddy old pond, but as David Attenborough explains, it's teeming with life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

TELL

told, told, telling

tell against

tell against *sb*

BrE *formal* to make someone less likely to succeed in achieving or winning something: *I badly wanted the job, but I knew that my age would probably tell against me.* | *The lack of training told against us, and we finished 47th out of 63.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count against**

tell apart

tell *sb/sth* **apart** NOT PROGRESSIVE

if you can tell people or things apart, you can see the difference between them, so that you recognize each of them and do not confuse them: *The twins looked so alike that only their parents could tell them apart.*

be difficult/hard/impossible to tell sth apart *Except for the difference in eye colour, it's impossible to tell the males and females apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish**

tell from

tell *sth/sb* **from** *sth/sb*

if you can tell one person or thing from another, you can see or realize the difference between them, so that you do not confuse them: *The two types of mushroom are very similar and it's difficult to tell one from the other.* | *It is expected that by this age most children will be able to tell right from wrong.*

* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish** *formal*

tell of

tell of *sb/sth*

literary to describe the details of an event or person: *The story tells of a young village man who makes his way to the capital looking for work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be about**

tell off

tell *sb* **off** **tell off** *sb*

if someone in authority such as a teacher or a parent tells you off, they speak to you angrily about something wrong that you have done: *Miss McHale will tell you off if she sees you doing that!*

be/get told off *Shelley was one of those kids who are always in trouble at school, always getting told off.* | *Hurry up – I don't want to be told off for being late again!*

* SIMILAR TO: **tick off** BrE, **reprimand** *formal*

telling-off N [C]
BrE when someone speaks to you angrily about something wrong that you have done: *I've already had one telling-off from Dad today for drinking his beer.*

tell on

1 **tell on** *sb*

informal to tell someone in authority such as a teacher or a parent about something wrong that someone you know has done – used especially by children: *I'll tell on you if you don't give me my pen back.* | *Please don't tell on me – my parents will kill me if they find out!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **split on** *informal*, **tattle on** *AmE informal*

2 **tell on** *sb*

to have a bad effect on your health, or make you feel very tired – used about someone who has been working very hard or using a lot of effort, or drinking a lot of alcohol: *It was clear that the long hours and the pressure of the work were beginning to tell on Stephen.* | *All those years of heavy drinking were starting to tell on her.*

TEND

tended, tended, tending

T

tend to

tend to *sb/sth*

formal to look after someone or something, by making sure they are all right and have what they need or want: *She hurried back to tend to the needs of her guests.* | *Anna was in her greenhouse, tending to her plants.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **attend to**

tend towards ALSO tend toward *AmE*

tend towards *sth*

if someone tends towards a particular attitude or type of behaviour, they usually have that kind of attitude or behave in that way: *I suppose he tends towards the right of the political spectrum.* | *Boys are more likely to take risks, whereas girls tend toward being more cautious.*

TENSE

tensed, tensed, tensing

tense up

1 **tense up**

if you tense up, you become tense, nervous or worried instead of being relaxed
Every time the phone rang, she tensed up, not knowing whether to answer it or not.

tensed up ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]
tense, nervous or worried, instead of relaxed: *Whatever's the matter? You're all tensed up.*

2 **tense up** | **tense up** *sth* | **tense** *sth* **up**

if your muscles tense up or you tense them up, they become hard and tight, especially because you feel nervous or not relaxed, or when you are preparing to do something: *I could feel the muscles in the back of my neck tensing up.* | *Ingmar's big body tensed up, as though he was expecting to be punched.*

tensed up ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]
if your muscles are tensed up, they feel hard and tight: *Can you give me a massage? My shoulders are all tensed up.*

TEST

tested, tested, testing

test out

1 **test out** *sth* | **test** *sth* **out**

to test a new product or idea in order to see whether it works well or will be popular: *A group of children were asked to test out the new Nintendo game for the Mercury News.* | *When you buy a sleeping bag test it out in the shop – put it on the floor, get inside and get the feel of it.*

+ **on** *The drug still hasn't been tested out on humans.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **try out**

2 **test** *sb* **out**

to do or say something in order to find out what someone's reaction is and how they behave: *He was testing me out, leaving all that cash lying about. He wanted to see if I was honest.*

TESTIFY

testified, testified, testifying

testify to

testify to *sth*

to show clearly that something is definitely true: *The growing number of empty shops in the High Street testify to the depth of the recession.* | *He'd been drinking again – his whole behaviour and appearance testified to that.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be evidence of sth**

THAW

thawed, thawed, thawing

thaw out

1 **thaw** *sth* **out** | **thaw out** *sth*

if you thaw frozen food out, you put it somewhere where it can warm up until it is

no longer frozen: *How about a pie – there's one in the freezer and I can thaw it out in the microwave.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **defrost**

2 **thaw out**

if frozen food thaws out, it becomes warmer and no longer frozen: *Keep the freezer door shut can you, or the food will start to thaw out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **defrost**

3 **thaw out** | **thaw out** *sth* | **thaw** *sth* **out**

if a person thaws out or they thaw out part of their body, they become warmer or they make their body warmer after being outside and getting very cold: *"Sit down by the fire, Miles, and thaw out," Father Poole said. "You must be frozen." | I put my fingers over the stove and tried to thaw them out.*

THIN

thinned, thinned, thinning

thin down

1 **thin** *sth* **down** | **thin down** *sth*

to make a liquid weaker and less thick, by adding water or another liquid to it: *The sauce tastes OK, but I think it needs thinning down. | If the paint colour's too strong, try thinning it down by mixing in a little water.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **water down**

2 **thin down**

if a person or a part of their body thins down, they become thinner: *After I started the 'Body Shop' classes my hips really started to thin down.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slim down**

thin out

1 **thin out**

if people, cars, houses etc thin out, there starts to be fewer of them, because some have moved away, or because you have moved past most of them: *The crowd had thinned out now, and only a few people were left in the square. | I don't usually go home until after 5.30, when the traffic begins to thin out. | The Bangkok suburbs began to thin out, revealing fields in the distance and palm trees.*

2 **thin out** *sth* | **thin** *sth* **out**

to remove some plants or branches that are growing too closely together, in order to make space for others to grow: *In early summer you should thin out the young plants to about three inches apart.*

THINK

thought, thought, thinking

think ahead

think ahead

to think carefully and plan for what might happen or what you might do in the future: *A lot of these problems could be prevented by thinking ahead and taking action early.*

+ to *We are now thinking ahead to the third phase of development, which involves rebuilding the factory and adding a new office block.*

think back

think back

to think about things that happened to you in the past

+ to *The speed at which the computer has changed American life seems even more amazing when I think back to my childhood.*

think of

1 **think of** *sth*

to find a new idea, suggestion etc by thinking about it: *I'll have to think of some way of showing them how grateful I am. | During the next twelve months, we need to think of other services that we can offer to customers. | That's a brilliant idea – I hadn't thought of that before!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come up with, think up**

2 **think of doing** *sth*

to consider doing something soon or in the future: *I'm thinking of retiring next year. | She thought of ringing him, in the hope of catching him at home.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **consider**

3 **what do you think of ...?**

used to ask what someone's opinion is about something: *"Well, what do you think of it, Henry?" Noreen said, indicating the painting on the wall behind him. | I'll ask Simon what he thinks of the idea.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make of**

4 **think of** *sth/sb*

if you think of someone or something in a particular way, that is your opinion of them or your feeling towards them

+ as *She still thought of Scotland as her home. | Geography's quite an unpopular subject because it's generally thought of as boring.*

think of sb/sth in that way *You're an adult now, and it's time you learnt to think of yourself in that way.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **consider, regard (as)**

T

5 **think of** *sth/sb*

to remember someone you knew or something you saw or did in the past: *Lynn remembered the hotel clearly, but she couldn't think of its name.* | *I sat on the balcony, thinking of my grandmother's house in the country, where I used to go as a child.*

6 **think of** *sb*

to consider the needs or wishes of another person when you are making a decision about something: *"You never think of me, do you?" Dinah said. "What about my future, my career?"* | *I can't just please myself, you know. I have a family to think of too.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consider**

7 **think of** *sb* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

spoken to think about someone at a particular time, especially when they are unhappy or doing something difficult: *Good luck in the exam – I'll be thinking of you.*

8 **I wouldn't think of** *sth*

I would never think of *sth*

spoken used to say very firmly that you would not do something or allow something, in any situation: *I wouldn't think of allowing a twelve year old girl to go to a pop concert alone!*

* SIMILAR TO: **wouldn't dream of (doing) sth**

T

9 **be well/highly thought of**

if someone or something is well thought of or highly thought of, other people have a good opinion of them: *Kerrison is well thought of and we'll probably appoint him if we can get the authorities to agree.*

10 **what was** *sb* **thinking of?**

spoken used to ask why someone behaved in a particular way – use this when you disapprove of what they did: *"What were you thinking of?" Lucien asked in horror. "You know we haven't got that much money!"*

think out

1 **think** *sth* **out** **think out** *sth*

to plan something carefully and in detail before you do it: *It was clear that the thieves had thought it all out in advance, and knew exactly what they were doing.*

be carefully/well/badly etc thought out *Such a proposal would need to be carefully thought out before it could be presented to the public.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

2 **think** *sth* **out** **think out** *sth*

to think carefully about a situation, problem, plan etc, and think especially about what might happen as a result of it: *"You're much too young to get married," my mother said. "You haven't thought it out properly."*

* SIMILAR TO: **think through**

think over

think *sth* **over** **think over** *sth*

to think very carefully about an idea or plan before you decide whether you will accept it or agree to it: *Government ministers are still thinking over the unions' demands.*

think it over *It was a wonderful offer so I agreed to think it over for a couple of days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consider, mull over**

think through

think *sth* **through** **think through** *sth*

to think carefully about a situation, problem, plan etc, and think especially about what might happen as a result of it: *The article suggested that the United Nations was taking action without fully thinking through the consequences.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think out**

think up

think up *sth* **think** *sth* **up**

to find a new idea, suggestion etc by thinking about it and using your imagination or intelligence: *Everyone in the room was told to try and think up a new and exciting name for the book.* | *We're really looking for someone who is able to think up new projects and carry them through.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think of, come up with**

THIRST

thirsted, thirsted, thirsting

thirst for
ALSO **thirst after** *BrE*

thirst for/after *sth*

literary to want something very much: *Buchanan was one of those men who thirst for power and success.* | *He was clearly thirsting for revenge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hunger after/for, yearn for**

THRASH

thrashed, thrashed, thrashing

thrash about/around

thrash about/around

to move from side to side and move your arms around in a violent and uncontrolled way: *Just at that moment the girl began to moan and thrash about, her pain suddenly returning.* | *I rushed to the side of the bridge,*

and could just make out someone thrashing around in the water below

∗ SIMILAR TO: **flail around**

thrash out

thrash out *sth* | **thrash** *sth* **out**

to find the answer to a problem, reach an agreement, produce an idea etc, by discussing something in detail and for a long time: *The two sides met in an attempt to thrash out their problems.* | *The Prime Minister and his cabinet were today continuing their meeting aimed at thrashing out a spending plan for the coming year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **hammer out**

THRIVE

thrived, thrived, thriving

thrive on

1 **thrive on** *sth*

to enjoy or be successful in a particular situation or condition, especially one that other people or organizations find difficult to deal with or disapprove of: *Jake thrived on conflict; there was no one who enjoyed a good argument more than he did.* | *Some companies have great difficulty coping with change, while others seem to thrive on it.* | *governments which thrive on secrecy and paranoia*

2 **thrive on** *sth*

to grow well with a particular food or in particular conditions: *Young toddlers can thrive on a diet of milk but they need to drink large quantities.* | *Some types of algae thrive on industrial waste.*

THROTTLE

throttled, throttled, throttling

throttle back/down

throttle *sth* **back/down**

throttle back/down *sth*

throttle back/down

if you throttle back the engines on a plane, boat etc, you make them work more slowly so that the plane, boat etc stops going faster: *When the plane reached 10,000 feet, the pilot throttled back the engines.*

THROW

threw, thrown, throwing

throw aside

throw aside *sth* | **throw** *sth* **aside**

to suddenly get rid of an old idea, belief, or feeling that you had: *We must throw aside the old prejudices and learn to live with our former enemies.* | *Throwing aside their loyalty to Tsar Nicholas, many officers changed sides and joined the Revolution.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cast aside**

throw at

throw yourself at *sb*

informal to try very hard to attract someone's attention and show them that you want to have a sexual relationship with them: *She'd thrown herself at that man, Henchard, and made a complete fool of herself.*

throw away

1 **throw away** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **away**

to get rid of something that you do not want or need: *I shouldn't have thrown away the receipt.* | *Do you want to keep these catalogues, or shall I throw them away?* | *I can't find Corrie's letter – I must have thrown it away.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chuck out** *informal*, **throw out**

throwaway ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
a throwaway product is one that can be thrown away after it has been used: *soft drinks in throwaway bottles*

throwaway society N [SINGULAR]
a society in which products are designed to be thrown away after a short time, so that a lot of things are wasted: *We live in a throwaway society. Why repair things when it's so cheap to replace them?*

2 **throw away** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **away**

to waste an opportunity or lose an advantage – used when you think someone is silly if they do this: *This could be the best chance you've ever had – don't throw it away.* | *It would be foolish to throw away all that we have achieved over the past five years.* | *In a brief fit of carelessness, United threw away their two goal lead.*

throw back

throw back *sth* | **throw** *sth* **back**

informal to drink all of an alcoholic drink quickly: *Ted threw back three shots of whiskey before we had even ordered dinner.* | *She poured herself a brandy, threw it back and poured out another.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **knock back** *informal*

throw back at

throw *sth* **back at** *sb*

throw back *sth* **at** *sb*

to criticize someone by reminding them of something dishonest, wrong, or stupid that they said or did in the past: *George Bush had said "No new taxes." It was a promise that the*

T

President's critics would throw back at him repeatedly in the years to come.

be thrown back on

be thrown back on *sth/sb*

to be forced to rely or depend on something or someone because of a change in your situation: *Homeless and jobless, Joss was thrown back on what little support his parents could offer.* | *When you are out there on your own, you're thrown back on your own resources and you have to learn to cope.*

throw down

1 **throw down a challenge/the gauntlet**

to invite someone to argue, fight, or compete against you: *The National Union of Miners had thrown down a challenge to the government.* | *After lunch Marcia threw down the gauntlet and challenged me to a game of tennis.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **lay down, challenge**

2 **throw down your weapons/arms etc**

if soldiers throw down their weapons, they stop fighting, usually because they have been defeated: *Realizing that their situation was hopeless, the rebels threw down their arms and surrendered.*

throw in

T

1 **throw in** *sth* **throw** *sth* **in**

to include more things with the thing that you are selling to someone, without increasing the price: *The person selling the house may offer to throw in carpets and curtains as part of the deal.* | *The price includes two nights in a three-star hotel, with breakfast and a sight-seeing tour thrown in.*

2 **throw in** *sth* **throw** *sth* **in**

to add something to a performance, a story, an idea etc in order to improve it or make it more interesting: *We could throw in a song or two to liven up the performance.*

thrown in for good measure (=added to get the result that is wanted) *It's basically a detective story with a little sex thrown in for good measure.*

3 **throw in your lot with** *sb*

throw your lot in with *sb*

especially BrE to decide to support someone and work with them, so that your future depends on their future: *At first Italy remained neutral, but in 1915 she threw in her lot with the allies and entered the war.* | *former socialists who had thrown their lot in with the conservatives*

4 **throw in** *sth* **throw** *sth* **in**

to add a remark or piece of information during a conversation, speech etc: *We were all wishing Debbie luck – even her old rival, Kay Jones, threw in a word or two of encouragement.*

5 **throw in** *sb/sth* **throw** *sth/sb* **in**

to send soldiers into a battle that has already started: *General Rawlinson continued to throw in his troops, and by midday 100,000 men were involved in the battle.*

6 **throw in** *sb* **throw** *sb* **in**

to put a new player into a team immediately before or during a match: *So many of our players had injury problems that we had to throw in four new lads from the reserves.*

7 **throw in** *sth* **throw** *sth* **in**

BrE if you throw in a job, you leave, especially when you are not going to start another job: *She threw in a good job with an insurance company just so she could follow her boyfriend out to Hawaii.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **quit, pack in** *spoken*, **chuck in** *BrE informal*

throw in/into

throw *sb* **in/into** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to put someone in prison, especially before they have been judged in a court of law

be thrown in jail/prison *Anyone caught selling liquor was likely to get thrown in jail.* | *Many of the rioters were arrested and thrown into prison.*

throw into

1 **throw** *sb* **into confusion/panic**

to make people feel very confused, afraid etc: *Everyone was thrown into confusion by the news of Gandhi's death.* | *Within days Hungary was in revolt and the Soviet leadership was thrown into panic.*

2 **throw** *sth* **into turmoil/chaos/disarray**

to suddenly make something very confused and badly organized: *A failure of the computer system threw London's ambulance service into chaos.* | *The world's money markets were thrown into turmoil last night.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **plunge sth into**

3 **throw** *sth* **into doubt/question/uncertainty**

to suddenly make people uncertain whether something is true, or whether something will happen: *These shocking events throw into doubt the whole future of the Olympic Games.*

4 **throw yourself into** *sth*

to start doing an activity or job eagerly and with a lot of effort: *Now Julia threw herself into her work, staying up late every night.*

throw off

1 **throw off** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **off**

to remove a piece of clothing quickly and carelessly: *She threw off her clothes and stepped into the shower.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rip off**

2 **throw off the yoke/shackles/chains**

literary to get free from something that has been limiting your freedom: *Russia has at last thrown off the shackles of communism.* | *nations that were struggling to throw off the yoke of colonial rule*

3 **throw off** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **off**

BrE to succeed in getting rid of an illness that is not very serious: *I've had this cold for several weeks and I can't seem to throw it off.* | *She's taken a long time to throw off the illness, and she's still not fully fit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, shake off**

4 **throw off** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **off**

to succeed in getting rid of a problem or an unpleasant feeling that has been having a bad effect: *Carnival is a time to throw off your worries and dance the night away.* | *The city has been making great efforts to throw off its negative image.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, shake off**

throw on

throw on *sth* | **throw** *sth* **on**

to put on a piece of clothing quickly and carelessly: *Throwing on a dressing-gown, I stumbled downstairs to open the door.*

throw out

1 **throw out** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **out**

to get rid of something that you do not want or do not need: *We threw out lots of stuff when we moved house.* | *Do you think I should throw these roses out? They're dead aren't they?* | *I hope you haven't thrown out yesterday's paper – there was something I wanted to read.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw away, chuck out** *informal*

2 **throw** *sb* **out** | **throw out** *sb*

informal to force someone to leave a house, school, job, organization etc: *We can't throw him out in this kind of weather – he's nowhere else to go.*

+ of *Wayne was thrown out of school for taking drugs.* | *Pop star James Atkin was thrown out of a hotel after his band, EMF, held a wild party there.*

be thrown out of work (=lose your job) *Hundreds of men were thrown out of work when Smith's shipyard closed on Teesside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick out, boot out** *informal*

3 **throw out** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **out**

if a parliament, a committee, or a court of law throws out a plan, suggestion, claim etc they refuse to accept it or make it legal: *The Senate had thrown out a bill for welfare reform the previous year.* | *Claims against British tobacco companies have been thrown out by the courts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reject, turn down**

4 **throw out** *sth* | **throw** *sth* **out**

BrE to produce large amounts of heat, light, smoke etc and send it out in all directions: *These electric radiators throw out a lot of heat.* | *Some of the bigger candles can throw out a lot of light.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give off**

throw over

throw *sb* **over** | **throw over** *sb*

old-fashioned to end a romantic relationship with someone: *They'd been going out together for about a year when he threw her over for someone else.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ditch, dump**

throw overboard

throw *sth* **overboard**

throw overboard *sth*

to completely get rid of an idea or system that seems useless or unnecessary: *By 1949 Stalin had thrown overboard all thoughts of negotiating with the West.* | *The Labour Party's old principles of socialism were thrown overboard in the scramble to get elected.*

* SIMILAR TO: **abandon, ditch**

throw to

throw *sb* **to the lions/wolves/sharks etc**

a to kill someone by feeding them to wild animals: *In ancient Rome, the Emperor Nero threw Christians to the lions.* | *When galley slaves were too weak to row, they were thrown to the sharks.*

b to deliberately put someone into a situation where they will be severely criticized or punished: *Clinton knew that if his supporters deserted him, he would be thrown to the wolves.*

throw together

1 **throw** *sth* **together**

throw together *sth*

to produce something quickly without planning it carefully, using whatever things you have available: *I'm afraid it isn't much of a meal – just something I threw together while you were unpacking.* | *cheap little houses*

T

thrown together by some builder for a quick profit | *Charlie had thrown the show together at short notice.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put together, cobble together**

2 **throw** *sb* **together** **throw together** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a situation throws people together, they meet and get to know each other because of the situation they are both in: *This is the story of a beautiful young heiress and a poor country boy who are thrown together on a transatlantic voyage.*

throw up

1 **throw up** *sth* **throw** *sth* **up**

especially BrE if something throws up new ideas, new problems or new people, it produces them: *The report throws up some interesting questions.* | *The newborn British rock culture was throwing up great performers like Cliff Richard.*

2 **throw up** **throw up** *sth*

throw *sth* **up**

informal to bring food or drink up from your stomach and out through your mouth, because you are feeling ill: *The smell was so disgusting, it made you want to throw up.* | *My stomach clenched and I threw up my dinner.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **vomit, be sick, puke up** *informal*

3 **throw up** *sth* **throw** *sth* **up**

to quickly build or make something such as a wall or fence: *Citizens threw up barricades around the Kremlin.* | *Thames Valley Police threw up roadblocks on the stretch of motorway leading to the airport.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put up, erect** *formal*

4 **throw up** *sth* **throw** *sth* **up**

BrE informal to suddenly leave a job or a course of study, especially when you are not going to start another job or course of study: *He threw up a good job, sold his house, and went off to join one of these religious cults.* | *You have a brilliant future to look forward to. It would be crazy to throw it all up now.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chuck in** *BrE informal*, **jack in** *BrE informal*

5 **throw up** *sth* **throw** *sth* **up**

to make dust, sand, water etc rise into the air, by driving or running over it: *Khalil saw a truck approaching, throwing up huge dust-clouds as it bumped along the rutted track.*

THRUST

thrust, thrust, thrusting

thrust aside

1 **thrust aside** *sth* **thrust** *sth* **aside**

to get rid of a something that is preventing you from making enough progress, by introducing a new system, method etc: *The new agricultural strategy thrust aside the supposed limitations of the existing system.* | *Boeing thrust aside the practises of the past, and completely revised its management philosophy and approach.*

2 **thrust aside** *sth* **thrust** *sth* **aside**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to refuse to consider something, especially someone's complaints, protests etc – used especially to show disapproval: *All our complaints were thrust aside and ignored.*

thrust on/upon

● **Thrust upon** is more formal than **thrust on** and is mostly used in writing.

thrust *sth* **on/upon** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

formal if something is thrust on you, you are suddenly forced to deal with it or accept it: *Fame was thrust upon Gooden at an early age.* | *Ryan graciously accepted the public responsibilities that were thrust on him.*

thrust up

thrust up

literary if something tall thrusts up, it is much higher than the things around it and is easy to see: *A needle of rock thrust up through the earth, like a stone sword.* | *Skyscrapers thrust up from the waterfront.*

thrust upon

SEE **thrust on**

THUMB

thumbed, thumbed, thumbing

thumb through

thumb through *sth*

to turn the pages of a book, magazine etc, but not read it carefully: *She sat in the dentist's waiting room thumbing through an old copy of Vogue magazine.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **glance through, flick through** *BrE*, **leaf through**

THUMP

thumped, thumped, thumping

thump out

thump out *sth*

informal if you thump out a song on the piano, you play it very loudly and by hitting the keys with a lot of force. The keys are the black and white parts of the piano that you press to make sounds: *Jenny was in the music room, thumping out 'The Rose' on her old stand-up piano.*

TICK

ticked, ticked, ticking

tick away

1 **tick away** | **tick away** *sth*

if a clock or watch ticks away it shows the time and makes regular sounds as time passes: *The hotel walls were so thin I was able to hear a watch ticking away in the next room.*

tick away the hours/minutes etc *Night was approaching and in the hall the old grandfather clock was ticking away the minutes.*

2 **tick away**

if time ticks away, it passes, especially when you are waiting for something exciting or important to happen: *Magic Johnson threw the ball up the court as the seconds ticked away just before the end of the game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tick by**

tick by

tick by

if time ticks by, it passes, especially when you are waiting for something to happen: *As the minutes ticked by, the audience grew impatient for the show to start.* | *The days were ticking by, and I still hadn't found the courage to call her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tick away**

tick off

1 **tick off** *sth* | **tick** *sth* **off** | **tick** *sth* **off** *sth*

BrE to mark things on a list to show that they are finished or have been dealt with: *Make sure that you tick off the jobs when they are completed.* | *The guests' names were ticked off when they arrived.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check off**

2 **tick** *sb* **off** | **tick off** *sb*

BrE to tell someone angrily that they should not have done something – used especially about parents, teachers etc talking to children: *Mrs. Brownfield ticked us off for talking in class.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scold, tell off, reprimand** *formal*

ticking off N [SINGULAR C]

BrE informal when a parent, teacher etc speaks to a child in an angry way and tells them they should not have done something: *Unless you want a ticking off from your Mum, you'd better get home soon.*

3 **tick** *sb* **off** | **tick off** *sb*

AmE informal to make someone angry: *I wish he wouldn't do that. It really ticks me off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **annoy**

4 **tick** *sth* **off** | **tick off** *sth*

AmE informal to read a list of things, especially by counting each thing on the list with your fingers: *He ticked off the names of the actors and what films they have starred in.*

tick over

1 **tick over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if a company, organization, system, etc is ticking over, it continues to operate, especially without producing very much, without making progress, or without having any problems: *The firm had enough work to keep it ticking over for the next few months.* | *The British film industry ticked over during the 1950s, without any real artistic ambition.* | *Peter's father went down to the factory now and again, to make sure things were ticking over smoothly.*

2 **tick over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if an engine or machine ticks over, it works slowly and steadily. Use this especially to say that a car engine operates slowly when the vehicle is not moving: *He told his driver to wait outside and keep the engine ticking over.* | *I can hear a strange noise when the engine ticks over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **idle**

3 **sb's brain/mind is ticking over**

BrE if someone's brain or mind is ticking over, they are thinking about something, for example because they are trying to decide what to do, or they are interested in something: *Her brain was ticking over rapidly, as she was trying to think of a way out of her current situation.* | *Mandy had brought him some books of puzzles to help him keep his brain cells ticking over while he was in hospital.*

TIDE

tided, tided, tiding

tide over

tide *sb* **over**

if you have enough money or food to tide you over, you have enough money to continue, or enough food so that you do not feel hungry: *My Dad lent me some money to tide me over until I get paid.* | *The guests were given coffee and cookies to tide them over until dinner.*

T

TIDY

tidied, tidied, tidying

tidy away

tidy *sth* **away** | **tidy away** *sth*

BrE to put things back in the place where they should be, especially after you have been using them: *Anthea looked at her watch and began to tidy her papers away.* | *All the dinner things had been neatly tidied away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put away, clear away**

tidy up

1 **tidy up** | **tidy up** *sth* | **tidy** *sth* **up**

BrE to make a place look neater by putting things in their proper places: *Would you mind tidying up a bit before the guests arrive?* | *They waited while the maids tidied up their hotel room.*

tidy up after sb (=make a place look neater after someone has made it untidy) *She got fed up with tidying up after her husband all the time, and went back to live with her mother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up**

tidy-up N [SINGULAR]
BrE when you make a place look neater by putting things in their proper places: *I'll just give the house a quick tidy-up and then we can go out.*

T

2 **tidy yourself up**

especially BrE to make yourself look tidier or cleaner, for example by washing your face or brushing your hair: *Janine went upstairs to tidy herself up before her date.* | *Trish insisted on tidying herself up in the nearest ladies' lounge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smarten yourself up**

3 **tidy up** *sth* | **tidy** *sth* **up**

especially BrE to make a few small changes to something, especially a piece of written work, in order to improve it or finish it: *I just want to tidy up a few things and then you can read it.*

TIE

tied, tied, tying

tie back

tie back *sth* | **tie** *sth* **back**

to fasten your hair or something that hangs down so that it is pulled back: *Her long hair was tied back in a red scarf.* | *Could you help me tie back the curtains?*

tie down

1 **tie** *sb* **down**

to stop someone from being free to do what they want to do: *He said he loved her, but he didn't want to be tied down.* | *Buying an expensive house could tie you down financially for a long time.*

2 **tie down** *sb* **sth** | **tie** *sb/sth* **down**

to force large numbers of soldiers to stay in a particular place so they cannot go somewhere else where they are needed: *The Allies had tied down twenty German divisions in Italy.* | *"We don't want our troops to get tied down in a land war in Asia," the captain explained.*

3 **tie down** *sth/sth* | **tie** *sth/sb* **down**

to fasten a thing or a person onto something using a piece of rope or string, so that they cannot move: *Make sure all the boxes are securely tied down.*

+ to *They kept him tied down to a chair with a bag over his head.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strap (down)**

4 **tie** *sb* **down**

to make someone promise or agree that they will definitely do something

+ to *You need to tie him down to a particular date for the wedding.*

tie in with

1 **tie in with** *sth*

to be similar to or connected with something else, especially something that contains the same information or ideas: *What you're saying doesn't tie in with what other people say about him.* | *These findings tie in with recent research in the field of genetics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit in**

tie-in N [SINGULAR]
a connection or similarity to something else: *There must be a tie-in somewhere.*

2 **tie in with** *sth*

if a book, record, concert etc is intended to tie in with something else, it is intended to be produced or happen at the same time, and they are connected with each other in some way: *Springsteen has released a new album to tie in with his current US tour.* | *The book was published to tie in with the popular 'Inspector Morse' TV series.*

* SIMILAR TO: **coincide (with)**

tie-in N [C]
a product, such as a record, toy, or book, that is connected to a new film, TV programme etc: *Tie-ins often generate more profit than the original film.*

tie up

1 **tie up** *sb* | **tie** *sb* **up**

to tie a person or animal to something using a rope so that they cannot move or escape: *Police said the two men tied up store employees before taking money from the cash register.* | *I tied my horse up and walked to the top of the hill.*

2 **tie up** *sth* | **tie** *sth* **up**

to fasten something together using a string or rope: *In the basement they found a wooden box tied up with string.* | *We tied up the newspapers and took them to the recycling centre.*

3 **be tied up**

spoken to be very busy, with the result that you cannot see someone or do something: *Sorry, I couldn't see you earlier – I've been tied up in a meeting all morning.* | *According to her diary she's tied up all next week.* | *Can I call you later? I'm a bit tied up at the moment.*

4 **get tied up**

spoken if you get tied up, something happens which prevents you from going somewhere or doing something: *Sorry I'm late. I got tied up.* | *We got tied up on the freeway because of an accident.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **get held up**

5 **tie up** *sth* | **tie** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

if a machine, phone etc is tied up, someone is using it continuously, and this prevents other people from being able to use it: *I've been trying to reach him, but the lines have been tied up all morning.* | *The Internet tends to get tied up at this time of day and it's incredibly slow.*

6 **tie up** *sth* | **tie** *sth* **up**

to finish arranging or dealing with all the details of something such as an agreement, a plan, or a problem: *Will the details of the contract be tied up before the end of the year?* | *Make sure you tie up the travel arrangements by the weekend.*

7 **tie up** *sth* | **tie** *sth* **up**

BrE if you tie up your shoelaces (= the strings you use to fasten your shoes), you fasten them in a knot: *How old were you when you learned to tie up your own shoelaces?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **do up** *BrE*, **lace up**

8 **tie up** | **tie up** *sth* | **tie** *sth* **up**

to tie a boat to something, especially so that you can stop somewhere after you have been sailing: *It was almost dark when they tied up at the boatyard.* | *Gridley hoped to tie up his tiny sailboat next to the barge.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **moor**

be tied up with

be tied up with *sth*

to be very closely connected with something: *A lot of his emotional problems are tied up with his childhood.* | *Christianity in Africa is tied up with its colonial past.*

TIGHTEN

tightened, tightened, tightening

tighten up

1 **tighten up** *sth* | **tighten** *sth* **up** | **tighten up**

to make a rule, law, or system more strict: *French authorities say they plan to tighten up the immigration laws.*

+ on *Airlines are tightening up on security after warnings of terrorist attacks.*

2 **tighten up** | **tighten up** *sth* | **tighten** *sth* **up**

if your muscles tighten up, or you tighten up your muscles, they become stiff, especially because you have done a lot of exercise, or because you are nervous: *These exercises will help to tighten up your stomach muscles.* | *The muscles in my leg suddenly tightened up and I had to stop swimming.*

3 **tighten up** *sth* | **tighten** *sth* **up**

to turn something, such as a screw, so that another thing is firmly held in place: *Tighten up the screws to keep the axle from slipping forward.*

● OPPOSITE: **loosen**

4 **tighten up** | **tighten up** *sth* | **tighten** *sth* **up**

if a team, organization, group etc tightens up, its members work together in a more effective way and make fewer mistakes: *Milan have tightened up their defence and they will be a hard team to beat.*

TILT

tilted, tilted, tilting

tilt at

tilt at *sb*

BrE to publicly criticize someone or something in a speech, newspaper article etc: *Sewell often uses his articles to tilt at modern artists like Damien Hirst.*

T

TINKER
tinkered, tinkered, tinkering

tinker around ALSO tinker about *BrE*

tinker around/about

informal to make small changes to something such as a machine or system in order to repair it or improve it

+ with *He spent all morning tinkering around with the engine and trying to get it to work.*

tinker with

tinker with *sth*

if you tinker with something such as a machine or a system you make small changes to in order to repair it or improve it: *My Dad used to like tinkering with engines.* | *The government should stop tinkering with the educational system and let teachers get on with their jobs.* | *When the company tried to tinker with the taste of its products, thousands of people wrote in to complain.*

TIP
tipped, tipped, tipping

T

tip down

it's tipping down

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very hard: *It's been tipping down all morning.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **pour down, bucket down**

tip off

tip off *sb* **tip** *sb* **off**

to secretly tell or warn someone about something, especially the police, the authorities, or news reporters: *The drug dealers were arrested after police were tipped off by local residents.*

+ about *Someone must have tipped off the press about Madonna's visit.*

tip-off N [C]
a secret warning or message about something that is happening: *Acting on an anonymous tip-off, police raided the house.*

tip over

tip over **tip over** *sth* **tip** *sth* **over**

if an object tips over, or if you tip it over, it falls on its side: *Bud was so mad he tipped his chair over.* | *I knocked the milk jug and it tipped over onto the table.* | *The boat tipped over and they were all thrown into the sea.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **knock over, overturn**

tip up

1 **tip up** *sth* **tip** *sth* **up**

if you tip up a container, you move it so that its contents start to pour out: *She tipped up her glass and finished the beer.* | *Stevens tipped up the wheelbarrow and emptied all the rocks out onto the ground.*

2 **tip up** **tip up** *sth* **tip** *sth* **up**

if an object tips up, or if you tip it up, one end goes down and the other end goes up, for example because something heavy has been put on one end of it: *A fat man sat down at one end of the bench, and the whole thing tipped up.* | *They had to tip the table up to get it through the door.*

TIRE
tired, tired, tiring

tire of

1 **tire of** *sth/sb*

to become bored with something or someone, especially someone or something that used to interest you or that you used to like: *His parents kept giving him lots of toys, but he soon tired of them.* | *Maybe after a few years of marriage she'll start to tire of him and want someone else.*

tire of doing sth *Voters were beginning to tire of hearing the same old clichés from politicians.*

2 **sb never tires of doing** *sth*

used to say that someone does something so much that it annoys you: *Dan never tired of telling people what an excellent basketball player he was.*

3 **sb never tires of** *sth*

used to say that someone likes something very much and never becomes bored of it: *Paul never seems to tire of Grover's stories.*

tire out

tire *sb* **out** **tire out** *sb*

to make someone very tired: *A full day of shopping tired us out.* | *James has so much energy – he always tires me out.*

tire yourself out (=work so hard or do something so much that you become tired) *Take a rest, kid. You'll tire yourself out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **exhaust, wear out, do in** *spoken*

tired out ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]
very tired: *They were both so sleepy, tired out from feeding, bathing, and putting the children to bed.*

TODDLE

toddled, toddled, toddling

toddle off/along

toddle along/off

BrE informal to leave a place and go somewhere else, especially by walking there: *I think it's time I toddled off home.* | *You two toddle along – I'll catch up with you in a minute.*

TOG

togged, togged, togging

be togged out/up

be togged out/up

BrE informal to be wearing special clothes for a particular occasion or activity: *They were all togged up in their walking gear.*

get togged up (=put on special clothes for a particular occasion or activity) *I'd better go and get togged up for the meal.*

tog yourself out/up (=put on special clothes for a particular occasion or activity) *The boys had togged themselves out in the latest fashions.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be dressed up, be decked out**

TOIL

toiled, toiled, toiling

toil away

toil away

formal to work very hard for a long period of time: *In the past, men toiled away in the fields while women took care of the cooking and cleaning.* | *When you think about artists, you probably think of poor painters toiling away in tiny studios.*

+ at *Lawmakers have been toiling away at the budget, feeling pressure to balance it before the session ends.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **slave away**

TONE

toned, toned, toning

tone down

1 **tone down** *sth* | **tone** *sth* **down**

to make something such as a speech, performance, or piece of writing less extreme, offensive, or critical: *TV bosses have told them to tone the show down, claiming there are too many sex scenes and too much bad language.* | *If Newland doesn't tone down his message, he will probably lose supporters.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **moderate**

2 **tone down** *sth* | **tone** *sth* **down**

if you tone down the colour of something, you make it less bright: *Makeup can be used to help tone down a reddish complexion.* | *To tone down a room that is too stimulating, select light-coloured paint and accessories.*

3 **tone down** *sth* | **tone** *sth* **down**

to change your behaviour or style of clothing so it attracts less attention than before: *You can tone down the dress with a black cardigan and make it suitable for work.*

tone in

tone in

BrE if something tones in with the other things next to it, they look good together, especially because they have similar colours

+ with *Choose a colour scheme for the curtains that will tone in with the rest of the room.* | *The new bridge has been designed to tone in with the rest of the area's historic buildings.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **fit in, match**

tone up

tone up *sth* | **tone** *sth* **up** | **tone up**

to make your body or muscles firmer and stronger by doing physical exercises: *Aerobics really tones up your muscles.* | *People can use the new exercise video to tone up without spending a lot of time or money.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **shape up**

TOOL

tooled, tooled, tooling

tool up

1 **tool up**

BrE if a factory or business tools up, it gets the equipment it needs to produce something: *Airplane factories were able to tool up quickly when the war began.*

be tooled up *The Wolverton factory was not yet tooled up to produce the new trains.*

2 **be tooled up**

BrE informal to be carrying weapons so that you are ready to fight or cause trouble: *The gang were all tooled up with baseball bats and they started smashing the place up.*

TOP

topped, topped, topping

top off

1 **top off** *sth* | **top** *sth* **off**

to finish something that has been very successful or enjoyable by doing one last thing

+ with *We topped off the evening with a meal in one of my favourite restaurants.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **round off**

2 **to top it (all) off**

especially spoken used when you want to mention one final thing when you are talking about something, especially something very surprising: *She spent the whole of our date talking about her previous boyfriends. Then to top it all off, she suggested we go and visit one of them!*

3 **top off**

AmE if prices of something top off at a particular level, that is the most expensive price

+ at *Tickets topped off at $75.* | *A local beer is available, starting at $1.50 a glass and topping off at $6.75 a pitcher.*

4 **top off** *sth* **top off**

AmE to fill a partly empty container with liquid: *Let me top off your drink.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **top up** *BrE*

top out

top out

AmE if something tops out, it reaches the highest level possible: *Monday's temperature should top out at 40 degrees.* | *My car tops out at about 65 miles per hour.*

T

top up

1 **top up** *sth* **top** *sth* **up**

especially BrE to fill a partly empty container with liquid: *I'll just top up the coffee pot.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **top off sth** *AmE*

2 **top up** *sth* **top** *sb/sth* **up**

especially BrE to put more drink in someone's glass or cup to make it full again: *Can I top up your beer?* | *Do you want me to top you up?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **top off** *AmE*

top-up N [C]
especially BrE if you give someone a top-up, you put more drink into their glass or cup to make it full again: *Would you like a top-up?*

3 **top up** *sth* **top** *sth* **up**

BrE to increase the amount of something, especially the amount of money that you earn, so that it reaches the level you want: *I took a job in the evenings to top up my income.* | *You can increase your monthly payments if you want to top up your pension.*

TOPPLE

toppled, toppled, toppling

topple over

topple over **topple** *sth* **over**

to become unsteady and fall over, or to make something do this: *The high wind just toppled the boats over.* | *Mark had dirty dishes piled so high they looked like they were going to topple over at any moment.*

TOSS

tossed, tossed, tossing

toss around
ALSO **toss about** *BrE*

1 **toss** *sth* **around/about**

toss around/about *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to move or shake something in a rough and often violent way. Use this especially to talk about something being shaken by the power of the sea or the wind: *The little boat was tossed around by the waves.* | *The plane was tossed about by the storm.*

2 **toss** *sth* **around/about**

toss around/about *sth*

to talk about a plan, idea, or suggestion, usually without considering it in a serious way: *Ken and I had tossed around the idea of visiting Greece this summer, but in the end we decided that it would be too expensive.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **play with, toy with**

3 **toss** *sth* **around/about**

toss around/about *sth*

if people toss a ball or other object around, they throw it to each other for fun: *The kids went outside and started tossing a football around.*

4 **toss** *sth* **around/about**

toss around/about *sth*

to use a word or phrase without thinking carefully about what it means, especially by saying that someone or something is much more important or better than they really are: *People often toss around words like 'genius' and 'living legend', but in his case they're all true.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **bandy about/around**

toss back

1 **toss back** *sth* **toss** *sth* **back**

to drink something very quickly, especially alcohol: *His friends had been tossing back beers all day.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **toss down, knock back, drink**

2 **toss back your head**

if you toss your head back, you move your head backwards suddenly, because you are laughing or upset: *He read the letter, then tossed back his head and laughed.* | *Tossing her head back defiantly, Tina refused to admit she was wrong.*

3 **toss back your hair**

if you toss back your hair, you move your head so that your hair is no longer in front of your face: *Kelly tossed back her hair and leaned forward to read the article.*

toss down

toss down *sth* **toss** *sth* **down** ✕

to drink something very quickly, especially alcohol: *Before going home, Brandon managed to toss down four more shots of vodka.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toss back, knock back, drink**

toss for

toss for *sth* **toss** *sb* **for** *sth*

if two people toss for something, they decide who can do or have something by throwing a coin in the air, and trying to guess which side will be on top when it lands: *The two teams tossed for the kick-off.* | *"Who gets the last piece of cake?" "I'll toss you for it."*

* SIMILAR TO: **flip for** AmE, **toss up** BrE

toss off

1 **toss off** *sth* **toss** *sth* **off**

to produce something quickly and without much effort: *Some writers seem to be able to toss off a new book every few months.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock off, knock out**

2a **toss off** **toss yourself off**

BrE *informal* if a boy or man tosses off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs: *Kevin was tossing off over a porn mag, when he looked up and saw Neil and Rhys spying at the window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jack off** AmE *informal*

2b **toss** *sb* **off**

BrE *informal* to make a boy or man sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs: *"I'll toss you off for a tenner," the prostitute offered.*

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jack off** AmE *informal*

toss up

toss up

BrE if two people or teams toss up for something, they decide who will do or have something by throwing a coin in the air, and trying to guess which side will be on top when it lands: *They tossed up to see who would play first.* | *Why don't we toss up for it? If you win, you get to keep the money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toss for, flip for** AmE

toss-up N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
when you do not know which of two things to choose, or when you cannot say which of two things are better or more successful because they seem very equal: *It was a toss-up between the chocolate ice cream and the vanilla sundae, and I finally chose the chocolate ice cream.*

TOT

totted, totted, totting

tot up

tot up *sth* **tot** *sth* **up**

BrE *informal* to add together numbers or amounts of money in order to find the total: *At the end of the game we'll tot up the points and the winner will be declared.* | *Ernest counted out the money and I quickly totted it up in my head.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up, total up**

TOTAL

totalled, totalled, totalling BrE
totaled, totaled, totaling AmE

total up

total up *sth* **total** *sth* **up** **total up**

T

to add together numbers or amounts of money in order to find the total: *Could you mark each other's work, please, and then total up your scores.* | *After the meal I began to total up – it wasn't going to be cheap.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up**

TOUCH

touched, touched, touching

touch down

✦ **touch down**

if a plane touches down, it lands on the ground, especially at an airport: *Margaret closed her book as the plane touched down at Istanbul airport.*

* SIMILAR TO: **land**

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

touchdown N [C,U]
when a plane lands on the ground, especially at an airport: *The accident took place seconds after touchdown.*

touch for

touch *sb* **for** *sth*

BrE *informal* to borrow money from someone: *While I'm here, could I touch you for the loan of a pound or two till next week?*

* SIMILAR TO: **tap for**

touch off

touch off *sth*

to cause something to start happening suddenly: *Nicosia's announcement that it would purchase the Russian air defence system touched off the latest crisis. | The incident had touched off a wave of rioting that spread throughout the occupied territories.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spark off, trigger off**

touch on/upon

● **Touch upon** is more formal than **touch on** and is mostly used in writing.

touch on/upon *sth*

to mention or talk about something for a short time and without giving very many details: *The book mentions Cromwell's activities in Ireland, but only touches on them briefly. | Negotiations for the treaty touched on border issues. | This aspect of Weston's work is barely touched on by most critics.*

touch up

1 **touch up** *sth* **touch** *sth* **up**

to improve something by changing it a little or adding more to it, often in order to hide marks or faults: *I didn't buy the Peugeot, because some of the paintwork looked as though it had been recently touched up. | Dominique looked in the car mirror and touched up her lipstick, before driving quickly off down the road.*

2 **touch** *sb* **up** **touch up** *sb*

BrE informal to touch someone's body without their permission in an annoying and unpleasant way in order to get sexual pleasure: *This guy sitting beside me started playing with my hair and touching me up. | people who like touching up young boys*

* SIMILAR TO: **feel up** *informal*

touch upon

SEE **touch on/upon**

TOUGH

toughed, toughed, toughing

tough out

tough it out

to deal with a difficult situation or strong opposition by being very determined and refusing to give up: *Despite all the protests Marcos tried to tough it out, thinking that the Americans would support him.*

TOUGHEN

toughened, toughened, toughening

toughen up

1 **toughen up** *sth* **toughen** *sth* **up**

to make rules or laws stricter and more effective: *We will use our EC Presidency to toughen up regulations on animal experiments.*

2a **toughen** *sb* **up** **toughen up** *sb*

to make someone become stronger, less gentle, and more able to deal with difficult situations: *His parents sent him to survival school last summer to toughen him up a bit.*

2b **toughen up**

to become stronger, less gentle, and more able to deal with difficult situations: *Intense competition is good for you – it forces you to toughen up and wise up.*

TOUT

touted, touted, touting

tout as

tout *sth/sb* **as** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

to praise something or someone and say that they are extremely good or likely to be very successful: *Tobin has been touted as a possible future prime minister of Canada. | San Francisco is widely touted as an ideal place to live. | The manufacturers are touting it as the safest car on the road.*

tout for

tout for business/trade/custom etc

BrE to try to persuade people to buy the goods or services you are offering: *There were five butchers in the street then, and the shopkeepers used to stand in the street touting for business.*

TOWEL

towelled, towelled, towelling BrE
toweled, toweled, toweling AmE

towel off

towel off **towel off** *sth*

towel *sth* **off**

to use a large cloth called a towel to dry your body, face etc: *I was just towelling off after my shower, when I heard a knock at the door. | Wooley finished shaving and towelled off the soap.*

T

TOWER

towered, towered, towering

tower above/over

1 **tower above/over** *sb/sth*

to be much taller than someone or something else, especially so that they seem small: *We saw St Paul's Cathedral towering above us in the mist. | Roy was already over 6 feet tall, and he towered over his classmates.*

2 **tower above/over** *sb/sth*

to be much better, more important etc than other people or organizations

tower above (all) the rest *Soseki was not a well-known writer in America, but in Japan he towered above all the rest.*

TOY

toyed, toyed, toying

toy with

1 **toy with** *sth* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if you toy with an idea or a possibility, you think about it and consider it, but not very seriously: *Len's not sure what to study at university – he's been toying with various possibilities.*

toy with the idea of (doing) sth *I had been to France several times, and was toying with the idea of buying a house there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flirt with**

2 **toy with** *sth*

to keep touching something or moving it about, especially while you are thinking about something else: *He toyed with his keys as he spoke. | We sat there toying with our food and trying to be polite to each other.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play with**

3 **toy with** *sb* USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to treat someone in a way that is not sincere or fair and is likely to upset them, for example by pretending to like them: *Rourke was not what he seemed – he had been toying with her that day on the river.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play with, string along**

TRACE

traced, traced, tracing

trace out

1 **trace out** *sth* | **trace** *sth* **out**

to mark or write something carefully and clearly: *I got out the map and traced out the route that we would have to take.*

2 **trace out** *sth* | **trace** *sth* **out**

formal to describe and explain clearly something that is complicated, in order to understand it or make it clear to other people: *In his book he traces out the latest theories about how the mind works.*

TRACK

tracked, tracked, tracking

track down

track down *sb/sth* | **track** *sb/sth* **down**

to manage to find someone or something after a lot of effort, by searching for them or following any information that is available about them: *Police have managed to track down thirty people who were in the town centre when the attack occurred. | Apparently it's always impossible to track down stolen jewellery – it just disappears.*

TRADE

traded, traded, trading

trade down

trade down

to sell an expensive house, car etc, in order to buy one that is cheaper: *Many homeowners decide to trade down in late middle-age, in order to get cash for retirement.*

● OPPOSITE: **trade up**

trade in

trade *sth* **in** | **trade in** *sth*

to give a car, piece of equipment etc that you own as part of the payment for a new one you are buying

+ for *We traded our big old van in for a smaller, more modern one.*

trade off

1 **trade off** *sth* | **trade** *sth* **off**

to balance one thing against another when you are trying to decide what is the best or most acceptable thing to do

+ against *You have to trade off the increased viewing charges against the number of new channels you can watch.*

* SIMILAR TO: **balance**

trade-off N [C]
an acceptable balance between two or more opposing things: *the trade-off between leisure and work*

2 **trade off** *sth* | **trade** *sth* **off**

to give something up, or accept something you do not want in order to have something

T

that is more important: *Israel may have to trade off some of its territorial gains in order to secure a lasting peace in the Middle East.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up, concede**

trade-off N [C]
something that you have to accept in order to have something else that you do want and that is more important: *Binder tolerates inflation as a trade-off for healthy economic growth.*

trade on/upon

● **Trade upon** is more formal than **trade on** and is mostly used in writing.

trade on/upon *sth*

to use something in order to get an advantage for yourself, especially in a dishonest or unfair way: *The newspapers accused her of trading on her relationship with the Prince.* | *He was able to trade on people's fears of the communists.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exploit**

trade up

trade up

to sell a cheap house, car etc in order to buy one that is more expensive: *Our car's getting a bit old now, so we're thinking of trading up and getting something a bit sportier.*

● OPPOSITE: **trade down**

T

trade upon

SEE **trade on**

TRAFFIC

trafficked, trafficked, trafficking

traffic in

traffic in *sth*

to buy and sell illegal goods, especially drugs: *The government has increased the penalties for trafficking in drugs and firearms.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deal in**

TRAIL

trailed, trailed, trailing

trail off

ALSO trail away *BrE*

trail off/away

if a person's voice trails off, it gradually becomes quieter and then stops: *Emily's voice trailed away; it was clear that she was very upset.* | *"I know I should have told you but..." At that point he trailed off and stared at his feet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tail off**

TRAIN

trained, trained, training

train on/upon

● **Train upon** is more formal than **train on** and is mostly used in writing.

train *sth* **on/upon** *sb/sth*

to aim a gun, camera etc at someone or something and keep it pointing at them: *All the TV cameras and microphones were trained on him, but Mellor refused to comment.* | *The man stood beside the sofa, the black revolver trained on her.*

train up

train *sb* **up**   **train up** *sb*

especially BrE to teach someone a particular job, skill or subject, until they reach the necessary standard: *The company takes new graduates, and trains them up over a period of two years.*

train upon

SEE **train on**

TRAMPLE

trampled, trampled, trampling

trample on/upon

● **Trample upon** is more formal than **trample on** and is mostly used in writing.

trample on/upon *sb/sth*

to treat someone badly and unfairly, ignoring their rights or feelings: *Don't try to be nice to everyone all the time – you'll just end up getting trampled on.* | *Rich countries like the US think they can just trample on places like Cuba and get away with it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **walk all over sb**

TREAT

treated, treated, treating

treat with

treat with *sb/sth*

old-fashioned formal to try to reach an official agreement about something with other people or countries: *In 1875 a commission was sent out from Washington to treat with the Sioux Indians.*

* SIMILAR TO: **negotiate**

TRESPASS

trespassed, trespassed, trespassing

trespass on/upon

trespass on *sb's* hospitality/generosity/ good nature etc

BrE old-fashioned formal to use more than you should of someone else's time, help etc, especially when they have already been very generous: *Fabia would have liked to stay longer but she felt that she must not trespass on his hospitality.*

TRICK

trick out

be tricked out

literary to be decorated or dressed in a particular way: *a picture of a young model tricked out in fur boots and a fur-lined bikini*

+ in *There were a number of pleasure boats on the lake, tricked out in all the brightest colours.*

TRICKLE

trickled, trickled, trickled

trickle down

trickle down

if money, advantages, profits etc trickle down from the richest people in society to the poor, some of the money etc passes slowly to the poor people: *In Russia the news is looking better, with wealth beginning to trickle down from the rich at the top. | The idea is that if tax breaks are given to the wealthy, the benefits will trickle down to lower income groups.*

trickle-down ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
used to describe what happens when the money obtained by the richer groups in society has a good economic effect on the lives of everyone: *If industry is doing well, there is a trickle-down effect on the whole economy.*

TRIFLE

trifled, trifled, trifling

trifle with

trifle with *sb/sth*

to treat a person or their feelings without respect, in a way that shows you do not care about them: *She felt that Hector had been trifling with her affections. | He was a man not to be trifled with.*

TRIGGER

triggered, triggered, triggering

trigger off

trigger off *sth* **trigger *sth* off**

especially BrE to cause a particular event, illness, or reaction to begin: *the events which triggered off the First World War | Dr Pushtai's report triggered off an intense debate about the safety of genetically modified foods. | Stress can trigger off a number of illnesses, such as heart disease or diabetes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spark off, set off**

TRIM

trimmed, trimmed, trimming

trim down

1 **trim down**

to reduce your weight by eating less and exercising

+ to *Jim started exercising and eating low-calorie food, and trimmed down to less than 150 lbs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slim down**

2 **trim *sth* down** **trim down *sth***

to reduce the size, number, or amount of something

+ to *The new edition of the book was trimmed down to just eighty-two pages. | Noriega merged the two organizations and trimmed them down to twenty-two employees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut down**

trimmed-down ADJ [ONLY BEFORE A NOUN]
reduced in size, number, or amount: *a trimmed-down version of the original*

trim off

trim off *sth* **trim *sth* off**

to cut small pieces off something because they are not needed or in order to make something look neater: *Cut the chicken into thin strips and trim off any fat. | I asked the hairdresser to trim an inch off all round.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut off**

TRIP

tripped, tripped, tripping

trip out

1 **trip out** **trip *sb* out**

AmE spoken informal if you trip out or something trips you out, it seems very strange or surprising to you: *I started saying some things in Russian, and she just tripped out. | The whole thing is so weird, it really trips me out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freak out** *informal*

2 **trip out**

AmE informal to experience strange things in your mind because of the effects of an illegal drug: *Sally tripped out for eight hours after taking LSD for the first time.*

trip over

1 **trip over** *sth* **trip over**

to fall or nearly fall because you hit your foot against something on the ground: *Apparently he'd tripped over a fallen branch, breaking his arm. | Lilly lost her balance, tripped over and landed in a pile of leaves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trip up, fall over**

2 **trip over your words**

to make mistakes when you are speaking because you are nervous or excited, for example by not saying words clearly, or by repeating words: *Simon continued his story, tripping over his words in his excitement.*

3 **be tripping over yourself/ each other to do** *sth*

if people are tripping over themselves to do something, they are very eager to do it, especially when this seems very surprising: *Suddenly everyone in Washington was tripping over themselves to praise Flynt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be falling over yourself**

T

trip up

1 **trip up** **trip** *sb* **up** **trip up** *sb*

especially BrE to fall or nearly fall, especially because you hit your foot against something on the ground, or to make someone do this: *The path's very uneven – careful you don't trip up. | Someone put out a foot and tripped the boy up as he was trying to escape.*

trip up on sth *She tripped up on a branch which sent her flying into the bushes.*

2a **trip** *sb* **up** **trip up** *sb*

to deliberately cause someone to make a mistake, especially by making them say something that they did not intend or want to say: *I wondered why the police had asked me that again. Were they trying to trip me up?*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch out**

2b **trip up**

to make a mistake, especially by saying something that you did not intend or want to say: *Sally realized that she would have to be more careful, or she could easily trip up in conversation.*

TRIUMPH

triumphed, triumphed, triumphing

triumph over

triumph over *sth/sb*

to succeed in defeating something or someone, especially after a difficult struggle: *Karen is back for the last games of the season, having triumphed over her injuries. | In 1984 Detroit triumphed over their main rivals, the San Diego Padres.*

TROT

trotted, trotted, trotting

trot off

trot off

informal to leave or go somewhere walking quite quickly: *Joe trotted off and came back a couple of minutes later holding a parcel. | Each weekday I trotted off to meet my father from his work.*

trot out

trot out *sth* **trot** *sth* **out**

to repeat something without thinking about it and without being sincere: *I couldn't believe it when she trotted out the same old excuse again. | Politicians always trot out the same old clichés when they're being interviewed.*

TRUCKLE

truckled, truckled, truckling

truckle to

truckle to *sb*

BrE old-fashioned formal to show too much respect to someone, in a way that shows you are prepared to do whatever they tell you or accept whatever they say: *The President was accused of truckling to dictators.*

TRUMP

trumped, trumped, trumping

trump up

trump up *sth* **trump** *sth* **up**

to invent information or facts in order to make someone appear guilty of a crime: *The whole thing was trumped up by the authorities in order to shut him up.*

trump up charges against sb *After Kattina's arrest, the police trumped up charges against her and she was deported to Beirut.*

trumped-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] invented in order to make someone appear guilty of a crime: *trumped-up charges* | *There was some trumped-up nonsense about false expense claims, but we all knew the real reason why she left.*

TRUSS

trussed, trussed, trussing

truss up

1 **truss** *sb* **up** | **truss up** *sb* USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE to tie someone's arms and legs very tightly with ropes, so that they cannot move or escape: *The girl had been kidnapped, trussed up in the boot of a car, and driven to Spain.*

2 **truss** *sth* **up** | **truss up** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE to prepare a chicken, duck etc for cooking, by tying its legs and wings into position: *We looked at all the turkeys, trussed up ready for Christmas.*

TRUST

trusted, trusted, trusting

trust in

1 **trust in** *sb*

formal to feel confident that you can trust someone: *Hennard was a difficult man, who never seemed to talk to or trust in any of his colleagues.* | *You know you can trust in me.*

2 **trust in** *sth*

formal to feel confident that something is good, right etc and will be successful: *None of us know what the future will be like, but we have to trust in our own ability to deal with it.*

trust to

trust to *sth/sb*

to depend on something, especially luck or your memory to help you do something: *Don't trust to luck – make sure you get proper advice.* | *It is important always to check the information first and not trust to memory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on**

trust with

trust *sb* **with** *sth*

if you trust someone with something valuable or the responsibility for doing something, you depend on them to look after it carefully or deal with it in a sensible way: *I could never trust Dan with money – he just went out and spent it all on beer.* | *Can the Socialists be trusted with the job of running the economy?*

TRY

tried, tried, trying

try back

try back

to phone someone or go to their house again later, after you have tried to phone or see them before: *Simon isn't here right now. Can you try back in about an hour?*

try for

try for *sth* NOT PASSIVE

especially BrE to try to get or achieve something that you really want: *The team were anxious to get on with the game and try for a second goal.*

try for a baby (=try to have a baby) *Many of the couples who attend the clinic have been trying for a baby for years and years.*

try on

1 **try** *sth* **on** | **try on** *sth*

to put on a piece of clothing to see if it fits you or to see if you like it: *I spent two hours trying on every coat in the shop, but none of them were just right.*

try sth on for size *I'm afraid we haven't got the jacket in black, but would you like to try the blue one on for size?*

2 **try it on**

BrE spoken to behave in a way that you know is not acceptable, in order to see whether someone will try to stop you, or whether they will allow you to behave like that: *Jake turned up uninvited at the last party, and he might try it on again this time.*

+ with *Kids always try it on with a new teacher – so don't worry about that.*

3 **try it on**

if a man tries it on with a woman, he starts touching or talking to her in a sexual way in order to see how much she will allow him to do

+ with *I came back into the living-room to find one of the other men trying it on with my girlfriend.*

try out

1 **try out** *sth* | **try** *sth* **out**

to use something for the first time in order to see whether it works well, or whether you like it: *The school is trying out a new method which claims to help children learn to read more quickly.* | *Doctors are trying out a new vaccine which it is claimed may help prevent cancer.*

+ on *The recipe sounded delicious, so I thought I'd try it out on my husband.*

try-out N [C]
if you give something a try-out, you use it for the first time in order to see if it works well, or whether you like it: *I gave one of their bikes a try-out last weekend, and it was fantastic.*

2 **try out** *sth* **try** *sth* **out**

to practice a skill or something you have learned in order to try to improve it: *If we went to France, it would give you the opportunity to try out your French.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **practice**

3 **try** *sb* **out** **try out** *sb*

to get someone to do some work for you for a short time before deciding whether to employ them permanently: *We'll try you out for a couple of weeks, and if you work well you can stay.*

try-out N [C]
when you get someone to do some work for you for a short time, to see whether you want to employ them permanently: *Evans said that they should get Jack Nicholson for the role, so he was invited in for a try-out.*

4 **try out**

AmE to compete or perform in front of a group of people who decide who should be chosen for a team, play, performance etc

+ for *Joan tried out for the school basketball team.* | *She's currently trying out for a part in the new James Bond film.*

try-out N [C]
an event at which people who want to be in a sports team, play etc are tested, so that the best can be chosen for it: *I had a couple of try-outs for the college hockey team.*

TUCK

tucked, tucked, tucking

tuck away

1 **be tucked away**

if a place is tucked away somewhere, it is in a quiet area where very few people go: *The hotel is tucked away in a quiet little side street.*

2 **be tucked away**

if something or someone is tucked away somewhere secret, they are kept hidden there so that people will not see them or know about them: *The key to the cellar was kept tucked away behind some old books.* | *Elsie had always known that her husband had another woman tucked away somewhere.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be hidden away**

3 **tuck** *sth* **away** **tuck away** *sth*

to put something in a safe or secret place: *Annie read out some of the letter, and then tucked it away, saying the rest was private.* | *His fingers touched the wallet, now tucked away in his inner pocket.*

4 **tuck away** *sth* **tuck** *sth* **away**

if you tuck money away money, you save it rather than spending it: *The new scheme involves tucking away between £50 and £100 each month into a savings account.* | *For twenty-seven years Pereira tucked something away each week, so that he could buy a house before retiring.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put away, stash away, put aside**

5 **tuck away** *sth* **tuck** *sth* **away**

informal to eat a lot of food, especially quickly and with enjoyment: *In five minutes Archie had tucked away ten slices of pepperoni pizza.*

sb can tuck it away *BrE* (=they can eat a lot of food) *Some of these children can really tuck it away!*

tuck in

1 **tuck** *sb* **in**

to make someone, especially a child, feel comfortable in bed by pulling the sheets and blankets firmly around them: *Adam took the little girl back to bed, tucked her in and kissed her goodnight.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **tuck up** *especially BrE*

2 **tuck** *sth* **in** **tuck in** *sth*

to push the end of a piece of clothing, sheet, blanket etc inside or under something, in order to make it look tidy or stay in place: *He stood up, tucking his shirt in at the waist and reaching for his tie.* | *She pulled the blankets across the bed and tucked them in.*

3 **tuck in** *sth* **tuck** *sth* **in**

informal to move a part of your body inwards, so that it does not stick out so much

keep sth tucked in *Try and keep your elbows tucked in while you're eating.*

4 **tuck in**

BrE informal to start eating something with enjoyment: *The waiter brought our meal and we all tucked in.*

tuck in! (=used when you want to tell people to start eating) *Come on, everyone, tuck in!*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dig in** *informal*, **dive in**

tuck into

tuck into *sth*

BrE informal to start eating something with enjoyment: *By that time we were starving,*

and we tucked into a delicious meal of steak and chips followed by ice-cream.

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

tuck up

1 **tuck** *sb* **up**

especially BrE to make someone, especially a child, feel comfortable in bed, by pulling the sheets and blankets firmly around them

be tucked up in bed *At last, when all the children were tucked up in bed, we sat down and opened a bottle of wine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tuck in**

2 **be tucked up**

BrE informal to be comfortable, warm, and safe somewhere: *What are you doing here at this time of night, instead of being tucked up at home? | It was so cold that we decided to spend the day reading, tucked up in our warm hotel.*

3 **tuck** *sth* **up** **tuck up** *sth*

to move your legs or feet close to your body or under your body so that you are sitting on them: *I sat down on the sofa, tucked my knees up and began to write. | The sight of her sitting there, with her legs tucked up under her, gave him the greatest pleasure.*

4 **tuck** *sth* **up** **tuck up** *sth*

to push something that is hanging down so that it goes up or under something else, especially in order to keep it tidy, hidden etc: *I waited while Carrie tucked her hair up under her swimming cap.*

TUG

tugged, tugged, tugging

tug at

1 **tug at** *sth*

to pull something quickly and strongly: *We all tugged at the rope, but the boat refused to move an inch. | Frankie was sitting in a chair, covered in mud, tugging at his wet boots.*

* SIMILAR TO: **yank (at)**

2 **tug at** *sb's* **sleeve/arm**

to pull someone's clothes or arm several times to try and attract their attention, or make them come with you: *"Mister," Willie said tugging at Tom's coat sleeve, "Mister, what's that?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull at, yank (at)**

3 **tug at** *sb's* **heart/heartstrings**

to have a strong effect on someone's emotions: *a very sad story that really tugs at your heartstrings*

TUMBLE

tumbled, tumbled, tumbling

tumble down

1 **tumble down**

if a wall or building tumbles down, it falls to the ground and is destroyed

come tumbling down *Do you remember the excitement there was when the Berlin wall came tumbling down?*

tumbledown ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a tumbledown building is old and in such bad condition that parts of it are falling down: *There was a tumbledown shed at the bottom of the garden.*

2 **tumble down**

to be destroyed or fail, and no longer exist: *Throughout the country change was coming quickly, barriers tumbling down.*

your world is tumbling down (=a lot of bad things happen to you and you feel very shocked or upset) *She felt that everything was going wrong – her world was tumbling down around her.*

come tumbling down *With the liberal atmosphere of the 1960s many old prejudices came tumbling down.*

tumble to

tumble to *sth*

BrE informal to suddenly understand something or realize what is happening, especially something that is secret or not obvious: *We'd been married eighteen months before I tumbled to the fact that he was playing around with other women. | Molly must have been ill for at least six months before I finally tumbled to it.*

TUNE

tuned, tuned, tuning

tune in

1 **tune in**

to listen to or watch a particular programme on radio or television: *More than 3.5 billion people are expected to tune in for the opening of the Olympic Games.*

+ to *Nathan always tunes in to the football game on Monday nights. | If it's Saturday afternoon, he'll probably be tuned in to the football on TV.*

2 **be tuned in**

to understand what other people are thinking or feeling, or know exactly what is happening in a particular situation: *As a character, John is very sensitive, very aware, very tuned in.*

+ to *In order for the company to increase its profits, we must be more tuned in to our customers' needs.*

3 **tune in**

if you tune in to other people's feelings, ideas, needs etc, you have a good understanding of them

+ to *The best way to encourage your child is to tune in to his or her interests and provide suitable activities.*

tune into

1 **tune into** *sth*

to listen or watch a particular programme on radio or television: *Last week, 4.3 million people tuned into 'The Late Show'.*

2 **be tuned into** *sb/sth*

to understand someone's feelings or ideas very well: *It's difficult to stay tuned into the needs of young people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be tuned in**

tune out

1 **tune out** *sth* | **tune** *sth* **out**

AmE *informal* to ignore something or stop listening to it: *Harget says he hopes people won't start tuning out warnings about the virus, because they've heard them so many times before.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore**

2 **tune out**

AmE *informal* to stop paying attention and stop listening or watching something, especially because you are tired or bored: *He often seems to just tune out and go off into a world of his own.*

tune up

1 **tune up** | **tune up** *sth* | **tune** *sth* **up**

when musicians tune up their instruments, they prepare to play by making changes to their instruments until they produce the correct sounds: *At last the orchestra had finished tuning up, and the audience became silent.* | *The band were tuning up their guitars backstage, and getting ready for the concert.*

2 **tune up** *sth* | **tune** *sth* **up**

to make changes to a car's engine, so that the car works better or goes faster: *The new test for gasoline-powered vehicles will force more owners to tune up their engines.*

tune-up N [C]
when you make changes to a car's engine so that it works better or goes faster: *I took my van to Mike's Service Centre for a tune-up.*

3 **tune up**

AmE to prepare for an important event, especially a sports event or a concert, by practising in an event that is not so important

+ for *Ballesteros tuned up for the Morocco Open by playing for Europe in a special international match against Africa.* | *Travis played a few gigs in Las Vegas last month, to tune up for the tour.*

tune-up N [C]
AmE when you prepare for an important event by practising in an event that is not so important: *The swimmer Gary Hall Junior faces a challenging tune-up in May, when US Olympians compete at the Phoenix Swim Club, his home pool.*

TURF

turfed, turfed, turfing

turf out

1 **turf** *sb* **out** | **turf out** *sb*

BrE *informal* to force someone to leave a place or an organization: *If you don't get out of bed soon, I'll come and turf you out!*

+ of *At half past eleven the landlord turfed us out of the pub.* | *About forty people were turfed out of the company last year, because of cuts in the budget.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick out**

2 **turf** *sth* **out** | **turf out** *sth*

BrE *informal* to throw out things that you no longer want or need: *You're not turfing that lovely jacket out, are you?*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw out, chuck out** *informal*

TURN

turned, turned, turning

turn against

1 **turn against** *sth/sb*

to stop liking or supporting someone or something: *Vincent was upset by Moore's critical comments. Why had the man turned against him?* | *By now it was clear that public opinion had turned against the Republicans.*

2 **turn** *sb* **against** *sb/sth*

to influence a person so that they do not like or support someone or something any more: *Miss Brodie thought I was trying to turn the other girls against her.* | *If you give students books that are too advanced for them, it can turn them against reading.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set against**

3 **turn against** *sb*

if an event turns against someone, it starts to go badly for them although it was going well

T

before: *In 1942 the war began to turn against the Japanese.*

the tide turns against sb (=things start to go badly for someone, and they stop being successful, or people stop supporting them) *The tide turned against the Labour government and they were narrowly defeated.*

turn around
ALSO **turn round** *BrE*

1 **turn around/round**

turn *sb/sth* **around/round**

to turn so that you are facing in the opposite direction, or to make something do this: *Simpson turned around in his chair and looked out of the window.* | *Can you help me turn the sofa round?*

2 **turn** *sth* **around/round**

turn around/round *sth*

to make a business, organization, economy etc successful again after it has been unsuccessful: *There are no quick solutions for turning around a sinking economy.* | *A new management team was brought in to turn the company around.*

turn things around *I'm sure if we get the right sort of financial backing we can turn things round.*

3 **turn around/round**

if a business, school, economy etc turns around, it starts to become successful after it has been unsuccessful: *In just a year the firm has turned around from a £106 million loss to an £11 million profit.*

turnaround ALSO **turnround** *BrE* N [C]
a complete change from a bad situation to a good one, especially for a business or a country's economy: *the recent sharp turnaround in Mexico's financial situation*

4 **turn around/round and ...**

spoken used to say that someone suddenly does something that is unexpected or unreasonable: *You can't tell other people what to do, and then turn around and say that you aren't going to do it yourself.* | *The company got rid of 200 permanent employees, then turned round and hired others on a temporary basis.*

5 **turn** *sth* **around/round**

to consider something in a different way, or change the words of something so that it has a different meaning: *You can of course turn the whole idea around and look at it from another angle.* | *I think it's more interesting to turn the question around, and ask ourselves why some people do not break down, even though they have a strong genetic disposition to do so.*

6 **turn around/round** *sth*

turn *sth* **around/round**

to complete the process of making a product or providing a service: *We guarantee we can turn your order around in under a month.*

turnaround ALSO **turnround** *BrE* N [SINGULAR]
the time it takes to complete the process of making a product or producing a service: *a 3-week turnaround*

turn aside

turn aside *sth* **turn** *sth* **aside**

to refuse to accept something: *Tokyo has politely turned aside an invitation from Peking for Emperor Akihito to visit China.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reject, turn down**

turn away

1 **turn** *sb* **away** **turn away** *sb*

to not allow someone to enter a place: *The guy at the desk turned me away because I didn't have a membership card.* | *When they got to the concert they were turned away because they didn't have a ticket.*

* SIMILAR TO: **refuse sb admission** *formal*

2 **turn** *sb* **away** **turn away** *sb*

to refuse to help someone when they ask for help: *When a member of your own family asks you for money, you can't just turn them away.* | *We've got so much business at the moment that we're having to turn new clients away.*

T

turn away from

1 **turn away from** *sth/sb*

to stop supporting someone, or stop using or being interested in something: *Voters turned away from him in the opinion polls after he was involved in a series of scandals.* | *A lot of teachers are turning away from traditional teaching methods.*

2 **turn** *sb* **away from** *sth/sb*

to make someone stop supporting someone or stop using or being interested in something: *It was feared that foreign influences might turn the people away from their religion.*

turn back

1 **turn back**

to stop when you are travelling and start going back in the direction that you came from, especially because it is dangerous or impossible for you to continue: *The Captain had been advised to turn back, due to very bad weather conditions.*

2 **turn** *sb* **back** | **turn back** *sb*

to make someone stop when they are travelling and go back in the direction they came from, especially because it is impossible or dangerous for them to continue: *Border patrols were turning back as many as thirty thousand refugees a day.* | *Police used tear gas to turn back demonstrators who marched towards the Palace on Friday afternoon.*

3 **turn back** USUALLY NEGATIVE

if you cannot turn back, you cannot change your plans and do something different

can't turn back *We've already spent so much money that we can't turn back.*

there's no turning back *Stubbs nervously accepted the offer, realizing that there was no turning back now.*

4 **turn back the clock/turn the clock back**

if someone wants to turn the clock back, they want to go back to the past, for example because they think things were better then or because they wish that something had not happened: *The Minister was accused of wanting to turn back the clocks to the 1950s, when most women didn't work outside the home.*

5 **turn back** *sth* | **turn** *sth* **back**

to fold over one part of a piece of paper or material: *Tabitha turned back the corner of the page, closed the book and lay down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

T

turn down

1 **turn** *sth* **down** | **turn down** *sth*

to reduce the amount of sound, heat etc produced by a machine such as a radio or a cooker: *Could you turn that music down – we can't hear ourselves speak!* | *After half an hour, turn the oven down to a low heat.*

● OPPOSITE: **turn up**

2 **turn down** *sth/sb* | **turn** *sth/sb* **down**

to decide not to accept an offer or an opportunity to do something: *Nowadays some men are turning down promotion in order to give more time to their families.* | *Rose finally married Reg Potter, fifty years after she'd first turned him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass up, reject**

3 **turn down** *sb/sth* | **turn** *sb/sth* **down**

to refuse to do what someone asks or suggests: *The City Council turned down a request to raise police officers' salaries by 6%.* | *At the end of the evening the committee voted on the proposal and turned it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reject**

turn in

1 **turn in** *sth* | **turn** *sth* **in**

to give something to a person in authority so that they can deal with it, especially an illegal weapon or something that has been lost: *The security forces arrested three hundred militants and ordered them to turn in their weapons.*

+ to *I'm still hoping that someone will find my wallet and turn it in to the police.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand in**

2 **turn in** *sb* | **turn** *sb* **in**

informal to tell the police where a criminal is, or to take a criminal to the police: *One of the other gang members turned him in.*

turn yourself in (=go to the police and admit that you are responsible for a crime) *Grimes finally turned himself in, saying he deeply regretted what he had done.*

3 **turn** *sth* **in** | **turn in** *sth*

AmE to give a finished piece of work to a teacher or your manager: *Only 17 students turned their papers in on time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand in, give in** *BrE*

4 **turn in**

informal to go to bed: *Well, I think I'll turn in now – I have to get up early tomorrow.*

* SIMILAR TO: **retire** *formal*

5 **turn in** *sth*

to produce a particular result, especially a good one: *The company's chairman said it would turn in better results for the year as a whole.*

turn in a profit *Pilkington turned in pre-tax profits up 6% to 147 million.*

6 **turn in a good/superb/fine etc performance**

to perform in a particular way, especially very well: *Michael Gambon, who played the judge, turned in a fine performance.* | *Many of the younger athletes turned in memorable performances.*

turn into

1 **turn into** *sth/sb*

to change and become a different type of thing or person: *It started off as a dream, but quickly turned into a nightmare.* | *When I saw him again, he'd lost a lot of weight and turned into a really good-looking boy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **change into**

2 **turn** *sth* **into** *sth*

to change something so that it becomes a different thing or is used in a different way: *The old barn next to the manor house had been turned into flats for old people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **convert (into)**

3 **turn** *sb* **into** *sb*

to change someone's life so that they become a different type of person: *The film turned Leonardo diCaprio into a huge star overnight.* | *You'll never turn me into a lawyer, Dad. I'm not cut out for it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make into**

turn off

1 **turn off** *sth* **turn** *sth* **off**

to make a light, machine, or engine stop working, or to stop the flow of gas, water, or electricity, by pressing a switch, turning a tap etc: *Don't forget to turn off all the lights when you go to bed.* | *Can you turn the tap off for me?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch off**

● OPPOSITE: **turn on**

2 **turn off** *sth* **turn off**

to leave the road or path that you are going along, and start going along another, usually smaller one: *Stephen turned off the main road into an almost empty side-street.* | *I'm sure we should have turned off at the last exit.*

turn-off N [C]
a road which leads off another, usually bigger road: *Go slowly or we'll miss the turn-off.*

3 **turn** *sb* **off** **turn off** *sb* **turn** *sb* **off** *sth*

informal to make someone decide that they do not like something or are not interested in it: *I loved the house from the outside, but the decoration inside really turned me off.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **put off**

turn-off N [C]
something that you do not like, because you find it boring or unpleasant: *Having to learn all the history of the place was a real turn-off.*

4 **turn** *sb* **off** **turn off** *sb*

informal if something about a person turns you off, it makes them unattractive to you, so that you do not want to have a sexual relationship with them: *An American report into male sexuality revealed that heavy make-up turned most men off.*

● OPPOSITE: **turn on**

turn-off *informal* N [C]
something that makes a person unattractive to you, so that you do not want to have a sexual relationship with them: *Bad breath is a real turn-off.*

turn on

1 **turn on** *sth* **turn** *sth* **on**

to make a light, machine, or engine start working, or start the flow of gas, water, or electricity, by pressing a switch, turning a tap etc: *I turned on the radio and listened to the six o'clock news.* | *Could you turn the oven on, if you're going in the kitchen?* | *Marion walked over to the overhead projector and turned it on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **switch on**

● OPPOSITE: **turn off**

2 **turn on** *sth* **turn** *sth* **on**

to start using a particular way of speaking or behaving, especially when you are not being sincere

turn it on *Craig's brilliant at entertaining people – he can turn it on whenever he wants.*

turn on the charm *"Come in, have a drink," he said, smiling at her and turning on the charm.*

3 **turn** *sb* **on** **turn on** *sb*

informal to make someone feel sexually attracted or excited: *Dave just didn't turn her on any more.*

turn-on N [C]
something that makes you feel sexually attracted or excited: *Most men find short skirts a turn-on.*

4 **turn** *sb* **on** **turn on** *sb*

informal to interest or excite someone a lot: *Crime fiction just doesn't turn me on.*

T

turn on/upon

● **Turn upon** is more formal than **turn on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **turn on/upon** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

to suddenly attack someone, either physically or with unpleasant words, especially when it is very unexpected: *We watched in horror as the dog turned on the little girl.* | *Peter turned on Rae, screaming, "Get out of my sight!"*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **round on/upon** *BrE*

2 **turn on/upon** *sth*

to depend on something in order to be successful or work well: *The whole future of the company turns on the success of this one product.* | *Whether we win the case or not turns on the exact terms of your contract.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon, hinge on/upon** *BrE*

3 **turn** *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

to suddenly aim something such as a gun, a light, or an angry look at someone: *The police officer turned his torch on the back of the house.* | *I was terrified she would turn the gun on me.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **train on/upon**

4 **turn on/upon** *sth*

BrE *formal* if your thoughts or a conversation turns on a particular subject, you think about or discuss that subject: *Stephen wasn't listening to the others – his thoughts turned on the journey in front of him.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn to**

turn on to

turn *sb* **on to** *sth/sb*

informal to make someone start to like something or become interested in it: *It was a neighbour of mine, a professor, who turned me on to modern art.*

turn out

1 **turn out the light/turn the light out**

to make an electric light stop working by pressing a switch: *Don't forget to turn out the lights when you come to bed.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn off, switch off, put out**

● OPPOSITE: **turn on**

2 **turn out**

to happen in a particular way or have a particular result

turn out fine/well *Don't worry about the interview, it'll all turn out fine.*

turn out to be *The holiday turned out to be the best we've ever had.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **work out**

T

3 **turn out**

if something turns out to be true, you find that it is true, although this is surprising: *I felt terrified about going to see my bank manager, but he turned out to be highly sympathetic.*

it turns out (that) *During the discussion it turned out that every one of the students in the room had tried cannabis.*

as it turned out *As it turned out, Jane knew all about the affair anyway.*

4 **turn out**

if a child turns out in a particular way, that is the type of person they become: *The Hedges were such an odd family, but all of the children had turned out perfectly normal.*

turn out to be *Although very shy as a child, he eventually turned out to be a natural leader.*

5 **turn out**

if people turn out for an event, they go to watch it or take part in it

+ for *Over 200 parents turned out for the school sports day. | On Saturday only a few hundred people turned out to see the game.*

turnout N [C]
the number of people who come to watch an event or take part in it: *The turnout for the election was about 70%.*

6 **turn out** *sth* | **turn** *sth* **out**

to make or produce something, especially in large quantities: *Toyota's new factory will turn out 100,000 pick-up trucks a year. | Russia turns out more graduate engineers than any other country in the world.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **produce, churn out**

7 **turn** *sb* **out** | **turn out** *sb*

to force someone to leave a place, especially a place where they are living: *The building was sold, and hundreds of people were turned out on to the streets.*

+ of *Many farm workers lived in fear of being turned out of their homes.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **throw out**

8 **turn** *sth* **out** | **turn out** *sth*

to remove something from the container in which it has been made or kept: *Allow the cake to cool in the tin, and then turn it out onto a plate.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **empty out**

9 **turn out** *sth* | **turn** *sth* **out**

BrE if you turn out a cupboard, pocket or other container, you empty it in order to clean and tidy it or see what is in it: *I'm going to turn out all the kitchen cupboards next weekend. | The teacher told us to turn out our pockets in front of her.*

turnout N [C]
BrE when you clean and tidy a room, cupboard etc and throw away the things you do not want: *This room's such a mess – it needs a thorough turnout.*

10 **be well/beautifully/nicely etc turned out**

BrE to be wearing good, beautiful etc clothes: *The music was wonderful and the choir was beautifully turned out.*

turn over

1 **turn over** | **turn over** *sb* | **turn** *sb* **over**

to move so that you are facing in a different direction when you are lying down, or to move someone so that they do this: *Patrick turned over in bed, to discover that Judy had already gone downstairs. | The nurses gently turned her over and straightened out the sheets.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **roll over**

2 **turn over** *sth* | **turn** *sth* **over**

to move something so that you can use, look at, or listen to the other side of it: *Could you turn over the cassette? | Juliet picked up the silver bowl, turning it over in her hand.*

turn over a page *BrE* *If you turn over the page, you will see the diagram that relates to these statistics.*

3 | **turn over** | | **turn** *sth* **over** |

BrE to change to a different programme on the television by pressing a button: *The film was so boring that we turned over half way through it. | Do you mind if I turn the TV over to watch the news?*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch over** *BrE*

4 | **turn over** *sb* | | **turn** *sb* **over** |

to take a criminal to the police, or to tell the police where a criminal is

+ to *The FBI caught Rostov and turned him over to the CIA.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn in**

5 | **turn** *sth/sb* **over** | | **turn over** *sth/sb* |

to give something or someone to a person or authority so that they can deal with them or be responsible for them

+ to *Terry and his two-year old sister Tiffany were unharmed in the attack, and were turned over to relatives. | The government seems to want to turn much of public healthcare over to the private sector.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

6 | **turn** *sth* **over** | | **turn over** *sth* |

to give something such as a business or a piece of property to someone, so that they become the legal owner of it

+ to *I expect Mr Busby will turn the shop over to his son when he retires.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

7 | **turn over** *sth* | | **turn** *sth* **over** |

especially BrE if a business turns over an amount of money, it makes that amount in a particular period of time: *The new company, Essential Computing, turned over £500,000 in its first year.*

turnover N [SINGULAR]
the total amount of money made by a business in a particular period of time: *an annual turnover of $5.6 million*

8 | **turn** *sth* **over** | | **turn over** *sth* |

to think carefully about something in order to understand it or make a decision about it: *I took a cigarette from the pack, turning over what Connors had told me.*

turn sth over in your mind *She said she needed a few days to turn it over in her mind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chew over, mull over, consider**

9 | **turn** *sth* **over** | | **turn over** *sth* |

| **turn over** |

if someone turns a car engine over or it turns over, it starts: *Hicks turned the engine over, felt for the accelerator and backed into the Harpswell Road. | It was a very cold morning and the engine wouldn't even turn over.*

10 | **turn** *sth* **over** |

BrE informal to search a place thoroughly, or to steal things from a place, in a way that causes a lot of damage or makes the place very untidy: *The police went in and turned the whole house over to see if there were any drugs.*

turn the place over *We came back from holiday to find the place had been turned over, and all my jewellery taken.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do over**

turn over to

| **turn** *sth* **over to** *sth* |

| **turn over** *sth* **to** *sth* |

BrE to start to use a building or a piece of land for a particular purpose: *The mill was once used for silk production, but was later turned over to piano making. | From that time on, more and more of the land was turned over to sugarcane production.*

turn round

SEE **turn around/round**

turn to

1 | **turn to** *sb* |

to go to someone for advice, sympathy, or help: *I felt very alone at that time – there was no one I could turn to. | Wyman turned to Suzanne Accosta, an old friend, during the court battle with his wife, Mandy.*

turn to religion *Many people turn to religion during difficult periods in their lives.*

2 | **turn to alcohol/drugs/crime/violence etc** |

to start doing something bad, for example being involved in criminal activities, taking illegal drugs, or drinking too much alcohol, especially because you are unhappy: *During the months following her husband's death, Joan turned to alcohol for comfort. | The scheme could give jobs to thousands of youngsters who might otherwise turn to crime.*

3 | **turn to** *sth* |

to look in a particular place or use a particular thing, in order to get the kind of help, information etc that you need: *Eventually the police turned to Germany in their search for information. | The earthquake cut off the telephone lines, and people had to turn to the radio for news about their families.*

4 | **turn to** *sth* |

to start a new type of work or habit: *Brenda Fricker worked for the Irish Times newspaper,*

before turning to acting. | *Apparently more and more people are turning to vegetarianism each year.*

5 **turn to** *sth* **turn** *sth* **to** *sth*

to start talking, thinking, or writing about a particular subject, or start dealing with a something new: *The speaker then turned to other aspects of society, including the home and family.*

turn your attention/thoughts/efforts etc to sth *Haggart looked down suddenly, turning his attention to some papers on his desk.*

a conversation turns to sth (=it starts to be about a particular subject) *Eventually the conversation round the table turned to the subject of money.*

turn up

1 **turn up** *sth* **turn** *sth* **up**

to increase the amount of sound, heat etc produced by a machine such as a radio, heater, or cooker: *It's really cold in here. Can you turn up the heating?* | *She was in the bathroom with the radio turned up to full volume.*

● OPPOSITE: **turn down**

2 **turn up**

to arrive somewhere, especially when you are expected there: *Rachel knew that Ross would be very worried if she didn't turn up.*

+ for *In the end, only nineteen competitors turned up for the race.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **show up**

3 **turn up**

if something that is lost or missing turns up, someone finds it, especially in an unexpected place: *I haven't found your watch yet, but I'm sure it will turn up sooner or later.* | *The car used in the robbery, which was stolen in London, turned up in Birmingham on Tuesday.*

4 **turn up** *sth* **turn** *sth* **up**

to find something by searching thoroughly for it: *A search by the state police and FBI failed to turn up anything suspicious.* | *Raids on terrorist hideouts over the years have turned up thousands of weapons.*

T

5 **turn up**

if a job or an opportunity turns up, it becomes available, especially in an unexpected way: *Don't worry, I'm sure a job will turn up soon.* | *I've been looking for a house around here for months, but nothing at all has turned up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come up**

6 **turn up** *sth* **turn** *sth* **up**

BrE to make a skirt, trousers etc shorter, by folding up the bottom edge and sewing it: *It's a lovely dress, but you'll need to turn it up an inch or two.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take up**

turn upon

SEE **turn on**

TYPE

typed, typed, typing

type in/into

type in *sth* **type** *sth* **in**

type *sth* **into** *sth*

to put information into a computer by typing: *Pulman sat down at his computer and quickly typed in his name.* | *The missiles can only be fired if an operator types a six-digit code into the computers.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **enter, key in**

type out

type out *sth* **type** *sth* **out**

to produce a copy of something that you have written, by typing it on a computer or a typewriter: *Gail was in the office typing out the lunch menus.* | *Michael had typed the poem out and sent it to me, asking for my comments.*

type up

type up *sth* **type** *sth* **up**

to produce a neat or complete copy of something that someone has written by typing it on a computer or a typewriter: *Could you type up this letter for me?* | *It was my job to attend all the meetings and to type up my notes from them afterwards.*

U

URGE

urged, urged, urging

urge on

1 **urge** *sb* **on** **urge on** *sb*

to encourage someone to keep on making an effort or to keep on doing something: *As Seb neared the winning-post, he heard Sarah's voice above the noise of the crowd, urging him on.* | *Congress, urged on by Bob Dole, was withholding aid from US missions in certain countries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **egg on**

2 **urge on** *sth* **urge** *sth* **on**

to try to make an animal go faster, especially a horse: *Tristan loosened the reins, and urged the horse on with his heels.*

urge on/upon

● **Urge upon** is more formal than **urge on** and is mostly used in writing.

urge *sth* **on/upon** *sb*

urge on/upon *sb* **sth**

to try to persuade someone that they must do something or must behave in a particular way: *The Soviets then changed their position, urging caution on Nasser.* | *MacArthur had urged on Taft the importance of concluding a peace treaty quickly.*

USE

used, used, using

use up

use up *sth* **use** *sth* **up**

to use all of something so that there is none left: *I had already used up the film in both my cameras.* | *We used up all our money in the first week of the holiday.*

USHER

ushered, ushered, ushering

usher in

usher in *sth*

formal to cause something new to start, or to be at the start of something new: *The discovery of oil ushered in a new era of employment and prosperity.*

V

VAMP

vamped, vamped, vamping

vamp up

1 **vamp up** *sth* | **vamp** *sth* **up**

to try to make something seem new or more exciting by changing it or adding things to it: *songs from the sixties that have been vamped up for today's audiences | Writers have been told to vamp up the storyline, or the show will be scrapped.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spice up, jazz up** *informal*

2 **vamp it up**

BrE informal if a woman vamps it up, she wears clothes that make her look sexually attractive to men: *She really vamped it up at the end-of-term ball, and wore a tight-fitting dress with a plunging neckline.*

VEER

veered, veered, veering

veer off

veer off

to suddenly go in a completely different direction: *At that point the road veered off towards the left.*

VEG

vegged, vegged, vegging

V

veg out

veg out

spoken informal to relax and do nothing when you are feeling lazy or very tired: *When I go home after work I normally just veg out in front of the TV.*

VENTURE

ventured, ventured, venturing

venture forth

a **venture forth**

formal or humorous to go somewhere, especially somewhere that may be dangerous or somewhere that seems strange and unusual: *When I finally ventured forth into the mountains, I was impressed by the beauty of the scenery.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sally forth** *literary or humorous*

b **venture forth**

formal or humorous to leave the place where you live and go somewhere else, especially when you do not do this very often: *Merrick would occasionally venture forth for trips to the theatre.*

VERGE

verged, verged, verging

verge on/upon

● **Verge upon** is more formal than **verge on** and is mostly using in writing.

verge on/upon *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be almost the same as an extreme feeling, quality, or situation, especially one that is very bad or serious: *He thought her behaviour was verging on insanity. | Morrissey's feelings for him verged on infatuation.*

be verging on the impossible/ridiculous etc (=be close to being impossible, ridiculous etc) *Property prices here are verging on the ridiculous.*

* SIMILAR TO: **border on**

VEST

vested, vested, vesting

be vested in

be vested in *sb/sth*

formal if power is vested in a person or group, they officially have that power, especially according to the laws of a country: *the powers which are vested in Congress by the US constitution | Executive authority is vested in a Governor, who is elected for a four-year term.*

vest with

1 **vest** *sb* **with** *sth*

formal to officially give someone the power to do something: *The Reformation had vested the monarch with the power to suspend Parliament.*

2 **be vested with** *sth*

formal if something is vested with a particular quality or value, it is thought to have it: *Because of their position, the islands have been vested with great political and economic significance.*

VISIT

visited, visited, visiting

visit on/upon

● **Visit upon** is more formal than **visit on** and is mostly used in writing.

visit *sth* **on/upon** *sb/sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to cause something very unpleasant or harmful to happen to someone or something: *Newspapers described the terrible suffering that was being visited on the people.* | *Look at the devastation that has been visited on our schools by the lack of sufficient funds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inflict** *formal*

visit with

visit with *sb*

AmE to spend time talking to someone in a friendly way: *Joe had a chance to visit with his old friend Logan while he was in Maryland.*

VOTE

voted, voted, voting

vote down

vote *sth* **down** **vote down** *sth*

to decide not to accept an idea or plan by voting: *The proposal to build a sports stadium on the site was voted down.*

vote in/into

vote *sb/sth* **in** **vote in** *sb/sth*

vote *sb/sth* **into** *sth*

if people vote in a person or group, or vote them into an official position, they give them enough votes in an election for them to win an official position of power: *The Democrats were voted in by a big majority.* | *Stuart Wilson was voted in to take the office of captain.*

be voted into office *Bangler soon gained the support of the electors and was voted into office.*

● OPPOSITE: **vote out**

vote out

vote *sb/sth* **out** **vote out** *sb/sth*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if people vote out a person or group, they do not give them enough votes in an election for them to stay in their official position of power: *Stephen Webb was voted out as director, after a disagreement with the management board.*

be voted out of office/power *The President of Nicaragua was voted out of office on February 25th.*

● OPPOSITE: **vote in/into**

vote through

vote through *sth* **vote** *sth* **through**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to officially approve a law or plan by voting to accept it: *The law, banning traffic in the city centre, was voted through six days ago.* | *At a special meeting yesterday, proposals for a new airport were voted through by a huge majority.*

VOUCH

vouched, vouched, vouching

vouch for

1 **vouch for** *sth*

to say that you know for certain that something is true, real, or of a high standard: *Les knows the builders personally and can vouch for their reliability.* | *Several people were prepared to vouch for what Becky was saying.* | *I've never been to the Skyroom restaurant, so I can't vouch for it.*

2 **vouch for** *sb*

to say that you know someone personally and can promise that they have a good character

can/could vouch for sb *John was refused entrance to the club, until somebody arrived who could vouch for him.*

W

WAD

wadded, wadded, wadding

wad up

wad *sth* **up** **wad up** *sth*

AmE to press something such as a piece of paper or cloth into a small tight ball: *She wadded up her candy bar wrapper and threw it into the garbage can.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crumple up, screw up** *BrE*

WADE

waded, waded, wading

wade in

wade in

to become involved in a situation or start talking to someone, especially in a way that annoys people because they feel they are being interrupted, attacked, or told what to do: *The demonstration began peacefully enough, but then the police waded in with batons and CS gas.* | *I can't just wade in there and start telling her how she should bring up her own children.*

wade through

wade through *sth*

to spend a lot of time reading or dealing with something that seems very long and boring: *You have to wade through pages and pages of fashion advertisements before you can find anything interesting to read.* | *Employers are busy people and do not have time to wade through a thirty page resume.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plough/plow through**

W

WAFFLE

waffled, waffled, waffling

waffle on

waffle on

BrE to talk or write using a lot of words, without saying anything important, or without saying clearly what you mean: *I asked him if I could have more money, but he just waffled on without giving me a straight answer.*

+ about *What's he waffling on about now?*

* SIMILAR TO: **drone on, witter on** *BrE informal*

WAIT

waited, waited, waiting

wait around
ALSO **wait about** *BrE*

wait around/about

to stay in the same place and do nothing while you are waiting for something to happen, someone to arrive etc: *We had to wait around for hours at the airport while they got the plane ready for take-off.*

keep sb waiting around *BrE* (=make someone wait around) *Sorry to keep you waiting around. I'll be back in a minute.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep sb waiting**

wait behind

wait behind

BrE to stay somewhere after the other people have left, for example in order to speak to someone about something: *Jonathan asked her to wait behind after the meeting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay behind**

wait in

wait in

BrE to stay at home and wait for someone to arrive: *The store said they'd deliver the bed yesterday. I waited in all day but no one came.*

wait on

1 **wait on**

to bring someone everything they want or need: *The princess was accustomed to being waited on by a team of maids and servants.*

wait on sb hand and foot (=bring someone everything they want, so that they do not need to do any work at all – often used humorously when saying that someone is lazy) *My last boyfriend expected to be waited on hand and foot.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wait upon** *formal*

2 **wait on** *sb*

especially AmE to serve food and drink to someone, especially in a restaurant: *Tammy was waiting on a group of noisy teenagers.*

3 **wait on** *sb*

AmE to sell goods to someone in a shop: *For five years he waited on customers in the family grocery store.*

4 **wait on**

to wait for a result or decision, especially before deciding what to do next: *We're still waiting on the results of the blood test.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wait for, wait upon** *formal*

wait out

wait out *sth* | **wait** *sth* **out**

to wait until something unpleasant has finished: *Jim and Huck waited out the storm in a cave on Jackson's island.*

wait it out (=wait until something unpleasant has finished) *I'm sure she won't be angry with you forever. The best thing you can do is wait it out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sit out**

wait up

1 **wait up**

to wait and not go to bed until someone comes back home: *We waited up all night, but she didn't appear till the following day.*

+ for *Don't wait up for me. I'll probably be late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay up**

2 **wait up!**

AmE used in order to tell someone to stop because you want to talk to them or go somewhere with them: *"Wait up!" Howard called to his sister. "Can I come too?"*

wait upon

1 **wait upon** *sb*

formal to bring someone everything they want or need: *While we were guests in the palace, the Emperor's servants waited upon us, and obeyed our slightest wish.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wait on**

2 **wait upon** *sth*

formal to wait for a result or decision, especially before deciding what to do next: *Congress must wait upon the decision of the Supreme Court before taking any further action.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wait on, wait for**

WAKE

woke, woke, waking

wake up

1 **wake up**

to stop sleeping: *I woke up at six o'clock this morning. | She woke up to find that he had gone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **awake** *literary*

2 **wake up** *sb* | **wake** *sb* **up**

to make someone stop sleeping, or make someone feel less sleepy: *Can you wake me up at 7.30? | He was woken up by the sound of traffic outside his window. | Have some coffee. It'll wake you up.*

3 **wake up**

to start to listen or pay attention to something: *Wake up! You almost hit that car!*

wake up to

wake up to *sth*

to start to realize that something is important and pay attention to it, for example a new situation, a problem, or something that may be dangerous: *Companies are finally waking up to the fact that it's actually cheaper to let people work from home. | In the mid eighties people started waking up to the dangers of AIDS.*

* SIMILAR TO: **realize, acknowledge** *formal*

WALK

walked, walked, walking

walk all over

walk all over *sb*

to treat someone badly, especially by always making them do what you want them to do without considering what they want: *You need to be quite firm with kids or they'll walk all over you. | You've got to stand up for yourself – you shouldn't just let other people walk all over you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trample on**

walk away

1 **walk away**

to leave a bad situation and not stay and try to make it better: *She can't just walk away after 15 years of marriage.*

+ from *It's easy for you – you can just walk away from all this. I actually have to live here.*

2 **walk away**

to leave after an accident without having any serious injuries: *A man walked away unhurt after falling from a fifth floor window. | Amazingly, both drivers walked away with only minor injuries.*

walk away with

walk away with *sth*

to win easily a prize or competition: *Most people thought that Tiger Woods would walk away with the championship.*

walk in on

walk in on *sb*

to go into a room and see someone doing something that they do not want other people to see: *Her husband walked in on them while they were in bed together.*

walk into

1 **walk into** *sth*

to get a job very easily: *People think that if you've been to Oxford you can just walk into any job you want.*

2 **walk into** *sth*

to become involved in an unpleasant or dangerous situation without intending to: *Without realising it, they had walked into a fight between two rival drug gangs.*

walk off

1 **walk off** **walk off** *sth*

to walk away and leave a person or place, especially in a way that shows you are annoyed: *She turned and walked off without saying goodbye.* | *McEnroe walked off the court in protest at the umpire's decision.*

2 **walk off** *sth* **walk** *sth* **off**

to go for a walk in order to make your stomach feel less full, or in order to get rid of pain, especially a headache: *We were all feeling rather full after lunch, and we decided to try and walk it off.*

walk off with

1 **walk off with** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to win something easily, for example a prize or competition: *Emma Thompson walked off with the Best Actress Award.*

* SIMILAR TO: **walk away with**

2 **walk off with** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to steal something or take something from someone without asking their permission: *Someone's just walked off with my beer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **steal, make off with**

walk out

1 **walk out**

to leave a performance or meeting before the end, because you do not like it or because you feel annoyed about something: *Several people walked out halfway through the film because they thought it was too violent.*

+ of *Only two weeks ago, Anderson walked out of talks with Leeds boss David O'Leary after an argument over money.*

2 **walk out**

to stop working in order to protest about something: *Twenty staff walked out yesterday when a colleague was fired for refusing to work overtime.*

walk-out N [C]
when a group of workers stop working in order to protest about something: *Car workers staged an unofficial walk-out in protest at the company's 2.5 per cent pay offer.*

3 **walk out**

to leave your wife, boyfriend etc suddenly and end your relationship with them: *His wife walked out after 20 years of marriage.*

walk out on

1 **walk out on** *sb*

to leave your wife, boyfriend etc suddenly and end your relationship with them: *Dorothy's first husband walked out on her, leaving her with three children to bring up on her own.*

* SIMILAR TO: **desert**

2 **walk out on** *sb/sth*

to not do something that you have agreed to do with someone, or that you are responsible for: *You're not going to walk out on the deal are you?* | *We'd be completely stuck if she decided to walk out on us now.*

walk through

walk *sb* **through** *sth*

AmE to explain something to someone slowly and carefully so that they understand it completely: *The software has a beginner's tutorial that will walk you through the process of creating your own stationery and greetings cards.*

* SIMILAR TO: **guide (through)**

WALL

walled, walled, walling

wall in

1 **wall in** *sth* **wall** *sth* **in**

to surround an area with a wall: *Part of the garden had been walled in, to make a sheltered spot for growing tender plants.*

2 **wall in** *sth/sb* **wall** *sth/sb* **in**

to surround an area or person: *The grey tower blocks walled in the space completely.* | *The shopkeeper sat behind his counter, walled in by racks of cheap watches, pens, and cassettes.*

3 **wall yourself in**

if you wall yourself in, you put yourself in a position where you are no longer free to change what you are doing: *The bureaucrats were prisoners of their own system. They had walled themselves in.*

wall off

1 **wall off** *sth* **wall** *sth* **off** USUALLY PASSIVE

to build a wall around or in front of something to separate it from the surrounding

W

area: *The garden was walled off to protect it from the wind.* | *Several of the caves have been walled off with rocks or bits of old timber.*

2 **wall off** *sb/sth* **wall** *sb/sth* **off**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to keep someone or something completely separate from other people, things, countries etc: *It had clearly been Dad's intention to wall off his past entirely.*

+ from *Burma was effectively walled off from the rest of the outside world.* | *The drug works by walling off the bacteria from the other cells, so that they cannot affect the rest of the body.*

wall up

1 **wall up** *sth* **wall** *sth* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to fill an entrance, window etc with bricks, stone etc so that it is completely blocked: *The only doorway had been walled up long ago.* | *Two of the windows were walled up, and there was very little natural light.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brick up/in**

2 **wall up** *sb* **wall** *sb* **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to completely enclose someone in a small space by building a wall to block the entrance, so that they cannot escape and will certainly die: *the ghost of an unfortunate woman who was walled up in a small room and left to starve to death* | *When the house was demolished, two complete skeletons were found walled up in the basement.*

WALLOW

wallowed, wallowed, wallowing

wallow in

1 **wallow in self-pity/misery/despair etc**

to experience feelings of great sadness and not try to stop them or change your situation, because you seem to enjoy these feelings, or want to get sympathy from other people: *Although we do feel sympathy for Blanche, she seems to wallow in her own self pity.* | *The film is definitely one to avoid, unless you enjoy wallowing in misery.*

2 **wallow in luxury/splendour etc**

to enjoy being in a place that is very comfortable and expensive: *Two of us spent £45 wallowing in the glorious splendour of Marrakech's best Moroccan restaurant.* | *I was insulated from the more unpleasant aspects of city life, wallowing in the luxury of the Savoy Hotel.*

3 **wallow in nostalgia/sentimentality etc**

to enjoy spending a lot of time thinking about memories of the past, or about feelings of love and sympathy that seem rather insincere: *Victorian painters used to love to wallow in sentimentality.* | *The old-timers sit back and wallow in nostalgia as they listen to their favourite bands from the 40s and 50s.*

WALTZ

waltzed, waltzed, waltzing

waltz off with

waltz off with *sth*

informal to take something without the owner's permission: *While they were at the airport someone had waltzed off with their guitars.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off with** *informal*, **walk off with**

waltz through

waltz through *sth*

informal to succeed in doing something very easily, especially passing a test, course etc: *The first women Royal Marines recruits have waltzed through their military training.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sail through**

WANDER

wandered, wandered, wandering

wander off

wander off

to leave the place where you are supposed to be, or the person you are with, without saying where you are going: *Oh there you are you naughty boy! How many times has Mummy told you not to wander off like that?* | *Sometimes he just wanders off for days on end – we get frantic, not knowing where he is.*

WANT

wanted, wanted, wanting

want for

not want for anything/want for nothing

to have everything that you need, especially because someone will provide it all for you: *I have worked long and hard to make sure that my children want for nothing.* | *She wanted to soothe and calm him and, in the same instant, tell him that he would never want for anything.*

not want for money/food etc *The girl won't want for money – her wealthy uncle will see to that.*

want in

want in

informal to want to be involved in a plan or business deal that someone else is arranging or involved in: *Red Roof Inns and Hampton*

Inns have both done well. Now the rest of the industry wants in.

+ on *Other record companies wanted in on the deal.*

● OPPOSITE: **want out**

want out

1 **want out**

informal to want to stop being involved in an activity, plan, relationship, or business deal that you are taking part in: *She can't afford to carry on with the payments and she desperately wants out.* | *Three months after Josh joined the gang, he wanted out.*

+ of *Brown says he wants out of the Boston team.*

● OPPOSITE: **want in**

2 **want out**

AmE to want to leave a place: *Excuse me, I want out, please.*

+ of *I want out of this bar – it's way too crowded in here!*

WARD

warded, warded, warding

ward off

ward off *sth* **ward** *sth* **off**

to prevent something from harming you, or prevent a disease from affecting you: *In Africa the masks are used to ward off evil spirits.* | *Like many men in their 50s, he takes aspirin daily to ward off heart-disease.* | *In order to ward off a possible environmental disaster, the government has banned the growing of genetically modified crops.*

WARM

warmed, warmed, warming

W

warm through

warm *sth* **through**

to heat food gently until it is warm: *Stir for 5 minutes until the vegetables are warmed through and coated with sauce.*

warm to
ALSO **warm up to** *AmE*

1 **warm to** *sth* **warm up to** *sth*

to become more interested in something, start to agree with something, or start to like something and want to do it: *My wife was completely against leaving the baby with anyone else at first, but now she's beginning to warm to the idea.* | *Mark soon warmed to the task and continued with renewed confidence.* | *Voters are starting to warm up to the idea*

warm to your subject/theme (=become more interested or excited as you continue talking about something and want to talk about it more) *By now Terry had warmed to his subject, and was explaining at length his views on women drivers.*

2 **warm to** *sb* **warm up to** *sb*

to start to like someone: *Pinney warmed to the young poet immediately, and asked him back to his home.* | *Hannah had been slow to warm up to her father.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **take to**

warm up

1 **warm up** **warm up** *sb/sth* **warm** *sb/sth* **up**

to become warmer, or make something or someone warmer: *In spring the weather soon starts to warm up.* | *It'll take a few minutes for the central heating system to warm up the room.* | *Come inside and have a drink. It'll warm you up.* | *I tried running down the road to warm myself up.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **heat up**

2 **warm up** *sth* **warm** *sth* **up** **warm up**

to heat food, especially food that has already been cooked, so that it is hot enough to eat, or to become hot enough to eat: *She put the lasagne in the oven to warm it up.* | *Do you want me to warm up some soup for you?* | *Some home-made apple pie was warming up in the microwave.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **heat up**

3 **warm up**

to do gentle physical exercises to prepare your body just before playing a sport, dancing etc: *The athletes are warming up for the race.*

warm-up N [C]
when you do gentle physical exercises to prepare your body just before playing a sport, dancing etc: *The players were doing some stretching exercises as a warm-up.*

warm-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
worn or used for warming up: *Sally takes off her warm-up jacket and runs onto the basketball court.*

4 **warm up** **warm up** *sth* **warm** *sth* **up**

if an engine, machine etc warms up, or you warm it up, it starts to be ready to work properly, usually a short time after switching it on: *He waited for the photocopier to warm up.* | *As soon as the rain stopped, Woolley got into one of the planes and started warming up the engines.*

5 **warm up** | **warm up** *sth* | **warm** *sth* **up**

if musicians, singers, or performers warm up, they practise just before a performance: *The band had very little time to warm up before they went on stage.*

warm-up N [C]
when musicians, singers, or performers practise just before a performance: *After a quick warm-up the guys were ready to go on stage.*

6 **warm up**

to perform at a concert, on a television programme etc before the main performer or the main part of the show: *Sheryl Crow is due to warm up for the Rolling Stones on their American tour.* | *Warming up for tonight's show will be blues fiddler Heather Hardy.*

warm-up ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]
a warm-up band, act etc warms up for the main performer or the main part of the show: *When I saw the Sex Pistols in 1976, the Clash were one of the warm-up bands.*

7 **warm up**

if a situation or an event such as a party warms up, it becomes more exciting, enjoyable, or people start to feel very strongly about it: *After midnight, things started to warm up and the party really got going.* | *America's war of words with Iraq is starting to warm up.*

warm up to

SEE **warm to**

WARN

warned, warned, warning

warn against

warn against *sth* | **warn** *sb* **against** *sth*

to tell someone that they should not do something because it may be dangerous or cause something bad to happen: *Military planners are warning against a land invasion, saying that large numbers of troops might be killed.* | *Her financial adviser warned her against such a risky investment.*

warn (sb) against doing sth *The US Embassy warned Americans against visiting southern Egypt.* | *Pregnant women have been warned against using the drug, after reports that it may cause abnormalities in unborn children.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **warn off**

warn away

warn *sb* **away** | **warn away** *sb*

to tell someone that they should not go near something, especially because it may be dangerous: *The battleship fired a single shot to warn them away.* | *The snake's markings are intended to warn away predators.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **warn off**

warn off

1 **warn off** *sb* | **warn** *sb* **off**

to tell people that they should not go near something, especially because it may be dangerous: *The army had put up signs warning people off.* | *Some animals mark their territory to warn off rivals.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **warn away**

2 **warn** *sb* **off** | **warn** *sb* **off** *sth* | **warn off** *sb*

to tell someone that they should not do something or use something because it may be dangerous or cause something bad to happen: *The actor has been warned off alcohol after a health scare.*

warn sb off doing sth *Doctors should have warned people off using the drug much earlier.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **warn against**

WASH

washed, washed, washing

wash away

1 **wash away** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **away**

if water washes something away, it carries it away, usually with great force: *The water rushed down the narrow streets, washing away cars like matchsticks.* | *Floods spread to new areas of Bangladesh and hundreds of homes were washed away.* | *fears that the white cliffs of Dover are being washed away by the sea*

2 **wash away** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **away**

to remove something using water or some other liquid: *They washed away the blood the next morning, so that there was no evidence that a crime had ever taken place.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wash off**

3 **wash away** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **away**

to get rid of unhappy feelings, thoughts or memories: *She hoped that one day all her troubles would somehow be washed away.*

wash down

1 **wash down** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **down**

to clean all of the surface of something, for example a car or a wall, using water: *He washed the car down, dried it and then waxed it.* | *Next morning Carolyn washed down the woodwork in the kitchen, and cleaned out the fridge and food cupboards.*

2 **wash** *sth* **down** | **wash down** *sth*

to drink something with or after food, or with medicine to help you swallow it: *They ate pasta, washed down with several bottles of cheap Italian wine.* | *Let your child wash the medicine down with a mouthful of their favourite drink.*

wash off

1a **wash off** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **off** | **wash** *sth* **off** *sth*

to remove dirt or other unwanted substances from the surface of something using water: *Your hands are covered in oil – you'd better go upstairs and wash it off.* | *She went into the bathroom to wash off her make-up.* | *He washed the mud off the potatoes, then put them in a pan.*

1b **wash off**

if something such as dirt or a mark on the surface of something washes off, it is removed by washing: *Don't worry about the stain on the carpet. It'll easily wash off.*

2 **wash** *sb/sth* **off** | **wash off** *sb/sth*

to wash a person or animal and remove the dirt, blood etc from their body: *His mother washed him off and put him to bed.*

wash out

1 **wash out** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **out**

to quickly wash the inside of a cup or a container in order to clean it: *Hannah washed out the vases and filled them with fresh flowers.* | *These cups are really dirty! Don't you ever wash them out?*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rinse out**

2 **wash out** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **out**

to wash clothes in order to clean them, especially by hand: *There was no washing machine, so we had to wash out our clothes in the sink.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rinse out**

W

3 **wash out** | **wash out** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **out**

if something such as dirt or a mark washes out or if you wash it out, it is removed by washing: *Emulsion paint can easily be washed out, providing it's fresh and hasn't had a chance to dry.*

4 **be washed out**

BrE if a game or other event is washed out, it cannot take place or cannot continue, because of rain: *England's first match against Australia was washed out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rained off** *BrE*, **rained out** *AmE*

washout N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
BrE when a game or other event cannot take place or continue because of rain: *The first day at Wimbledon was a washout.*

5 **be washed out**

if someone is washed out, they are very tired and have no energy to do anything: *You'd better sit down and have a rest. You look washed out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be shattered, be exhausted**

wash over

1 **wash over** *sb*

if a feeling washes over you, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *Maybe he doesn't love me anymore, thought Juliet, and a deep feeling of sadness washed over her.* | *His apparent lack of emotion was impossible to bear, and a sudden wave of anger washed over her.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **come over, engulf** *formal*

2 **let** *sth* **wash over you**

if you let something wash over you, you relax and enjoy it, or you do not pay close attention to it and think of other things: *She lay back and closed her eyes, and let the music wash over her.* | *Marjorie understood little of their conversation. She was content just to let it wash over her.*

wash up

1 **wash up** | **wash up** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **up**

BrE to wash plates, dishes, knives etc, especially after a meal: *Since you made lunch, I'll wash up.* | *Ruth was helping behind the bar, washing up the glasses.*

washing-up N [U]
BrE if you do the washing-up, you wash plates, dishes, knives etc, especially after a meal: *Susan was doing the washing-up and Simon had insisted on helping her.*

2 **wash up**

AmE to wash your hands, especially before eating: *Go wash up, boys. It's almost dinner time.*

3 **wash up** *sth* | **wash** *sth* **up** | **wash up**

if something is washed up by the sea, it is carried onto the shore and left there by the sea: *Her body was found washed up on a Moroccan beach.* | *Wreckage from the dinghy was washed up a few miles up the coast.*

4 **be washed up**

if someone is washed up, they are no longer successful in their life or their job, and it is very difficult for them to change this situation: *Benn's critics are saying that he's washed up, and that his career in international boxing is over.* | *The former star said he knew he was washed up when no one seemed to recognize him anymore.*

WASTE

wasted, wasted, wasting

waste away

1 **waste away**

to become very thin and weak, especially because you are ill or are not getting enough food: *By this time she couldn't stand or walk. She was wasting away. | Sam lay dying of AIDS in a New York hospital, his body visibly wasting away. | I'm only allowed one meal a day on this diet. I'm wasting away!*

2 **waste away**

to feel very bored and unhappy because your skills and abilities are not being used: *One unemployed man said "It's not just the money. Work gives you something to do. I feel I'm just wasting away."*

3 **waste away**

if something wastes away, it gradually becomes smaller or weaker until it disappears: *The leaves become brown at the edges, and start to waste away. | If you don't use your muscles, they waste away.*

WATCH

watched, watched, watching

watch for

watch for *sth*

to pay attention in order to notice something if or when it happens: *"This is it," said Emily, watching for Mungo's reaction. | The police were hiding in the bushes, watching for drug smugglers trying to cross the border.*

watch out

watch out USUALLY IN COMMANDS

to be careful and pay attention because something bad may happen – used especially when warning someone to be careful: *"Watch out!" whispered Daniel. They glanced around and saw Miss Turnbull coming straight towards them. | You're going to become an alcoholic if you don't watch out. | Inter Milan are a strong team, and United had better watch out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look out!** *spoken*

watch out for

1 **watch out for** *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to be careful to notice something or someone because they could be dangerous, could cause problems etc: *Watch out for injuries while exercising. Always stop as soon as you begin to feel any pain. | Watch out for thieves when you're travelling on the subway. | A common problem to watch out for is grey mould on the leaves.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look out for**

2 **watch out for** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be careful to notice something because it may be interesting, exciting, or useful – used especially when recommending something to someone: *Watch out for the band's new record, which is climbing up the US charts. | Visitors should watch out for Sidney the green parrot, who flaps around the garden performing his imitation of a ringing telephone.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **look out for**

watch over

1 **watch over** *sb/sth*

to guard or take care of someone or something: *Can you watch over the children for me till I get back? | The two policemen took it in turns to watch over him. | We managed to cross the mountains safely – God must have been watching over us.*

2 **watch over** *sb/sth*

to watch and make sure that someone behaves properly or something happens in the correct way: *Today there was no boss to watch over him, and he could do what he liked. | The treasury watches over all government spending.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **keep an eye on sb/sth**

WATER

watered, watered, watering

water down

1 **water down** *sth* **water** *sth* **down**

to change a plan, system, statement etc so that it is much less effective or powerful, in order to make it more acceptable – used to show disapproval: *Gaidar's economic reforms were watered down by the Russian parliament. | Environmental campaigners say that tougher controls on pollution from cars have been watered down because of pressure from the car industry.*

watered-down ADJ
changed and made much less effective or powerful: *Blair's watered-down version of socialism | The ANC favours a watered-down form of regional government.*

2 **water down** *sth* **water** *sth* **down**

to add water to alcoholic drinks and make them weaker, especially in order to deceive people by serving them less alcohol than they have paid for: *The bar staff aren't very friendly, and I'm sure they water down the drinks.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **dilute**

watered-down ADJ
watered-down alcoholic drinks have had water added: *The drinks were watered-down, and I wasn't very impressed with the food either.*

WAVE

waved, waved, waving

wave aside

wave aside *sth* | **wave** *sth* **aside**

to refuse to accept what someone says, especially because you do not think it is important: *The judge waved all their objections aside and sentenced them to three months in jail.* | *Chapman appointed him as chief trainer, waving aside protests about his lack of experience.* | *"Forgive me Marshal," said Karr. Marshal Tolonen waved aside his apology and walked away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush aside**

wave away

wave away *sb* | **wave** *sb* **away**

wave your hand to tell someone that you do not want to talk to them or do not want them to come near you: *She tried to talk to Rodman, but he rudely waved her away.* | *The waiter started to come towards us, but Margaret waved him away.*

wave down

wave down *sth/sb* | **wave** *sth/sb* **down**

to make a vehicle stop by waving your arms at the driver: *Yuko managed to wave down a taxi and asked to be taken to Shibuya station.* | *The officer stepped out into the street, and raised his hand to wave the driver down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flag down**

wave off

1 **wave** *sb* **off** | **wave off** *sb*

to wave goodbye to someone as they leave: *Mrs Dale waved her husband off to work, then went back inside the house.* | *We all went down to the airport to wave her off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see off**

2 **wave** *sb* **off** *sth* | **wave** *sb/sth* **off**

to wave your arms to tell someone or something to leave a place, especially because they should not be there: *The referee waved him off the field.* | *A park keeper was waving some boys off the grass.*

wave on

wave *sb* **on** | **wave on** *sb*

to wave your hands to tell someone, especially a driver, to continue moving forwards: *The guard looked at his papers, then waved him on.* | *Police were waving the other drivers on.* | *Sergeant Finch rolled down his window and waved on a truck laden with fresh fruit.*

wave through

wave *sb* **through** | **wave through** *sb*

to wave your hands to tell someone that they can go through or enter a place: *The customs officer at the airport waved them straight through.*

WEAN

weaned, weaned, weaning

wean off

wean *sb* **off** *sth*

to make someone stop using something that is harmful, by gradually reducing the amount that they can have: *Dr Rossdale said he tried to wean her off the sleeping tablets.* | *It is extremely difficult to wean a child off junk food.* | *These substances are being used to help wean the world off its dependence on CFCs, which are damaging the ozone layer.*

be weaned on

be weaned on *sth*

to be influenced by something because you experience it regularly when you are young: *a generation weaned on TV and computer games* | *I was weaned on a regular diet of Hollywood fantasy at my local cinema.*

WEAR

wore, worn, wearing

wear away

wear *sth* **away** | **wear away** *sth* | **wear away**

if something wears away or is worn away, it become thinner and gradually disappears because it has been used a lot or rubbed a lot: *The mountain path has been worn away by tourists over the years.* | *The sea has worn away the softer rocks.* | *The paint on the doors and windows has gradually worn away.*

wear down

1 **wear** *sb* **down** | **wear down** *sb*

to gradually make someone feel tired and so less able or less determined to do something: *Constantly being criticized wears you down.* | *Worn down by the long night's march, we had little energy left for the fight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grind down**

2 **wear down** *sth* | **wear** *sth* **down** | **wear down**

if something is worn down, or wears down, it becomes thinner and smoother because

W

something has been rubbing against it over a period of time: *Both my shoes have worn down at the heel.* | *rocks worn down by the relentless action of sea and wind*

+ to *He was driving on a tyre that was worn right down to the bare canvas.*

wear in

wear in *sth* | **wear** *sth* **in**

to wear new boots or shoes for short periods of time until they become more comfortable: *I'm not going on any long walks till I've worn in my new boots.*

wear off

wear off

if a feeling or the effect of something such as a drug wears off, it gradually becomes weaker and disappears: *The effects of the anaesthetic were starting to wear off.* | *Learning a language is hard work, and your early enthusiasm may soon wear off.*

the novelty wears off (=you stop feeling excited about something because it is no longer new) *Would she become bored with married life once the novelty wore off?*

wear on

wear on

if a period of time wears on, it seems to pass very slowly

as the day/months/year etc wore on *As the night wore on and there was no news of them, Corrie grew more and more anxious.* | *It became clear, as the long campaign wore on, that the Republicans were in deep trouble.*

* SIMILAR TO: **draw on**

wear out

1 **wear out** *sth* | **wear** *sth* **out**

wear out

if you wear out clothes, materials, equipment etc, or if they wear out, they gradually become weak or damaged by being used a lot until they cannot be used any longer: *After only a month Terry had worn out the soles of his shoes.* | *Do sit down and stop pacing around – you'll wear out the carpet.* | *When the motor wears out, it is easy to replace.*

worn-out ADJ
worn-out things have been used so much that they have become weak or damaged and can no longer be used: *the cost of replacing worn-out equipment*

2 **wear** *sb* **out** | **wear out** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone feel extremely tired: *Long hours of working in the hotel kitchen had worn her out.*

wear yourself out *You must take a break sometimes – you'll wear yourself out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exhaust, tire out, do in** *spoken*

worn out ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]
extremely tired: *Come in and sit down. You look absolutely worn out.* | *Mick was worn out after a hard day at the office.*

wear through

wear through | **wear through** *sth*

wear *sth* **through**

if a piece of material wears through, or is worn through, a hole is gradually made in it where the material has been made thinner and weaker by being rubbed or used a lot: *I needed a new schoolbag – the leather strap on my old one had almost worn through.* | *The soles of her boots were completely worn through after her 400 mile walk through the Andes.*

+ to *In one place the carpeting had worn right through to the floorboards.*

WEARY

wearied, wearied, wearying

weary of

weary of *sth*

literary to become bored with something and stop being interested in it: *Lewis was now beginning to weary of college life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tire of**

WEASEL

weaseled, weaseled, weaseling

weasel out

weasel out

AmE informal to not do something that you had promised or agreed to do, especially in a dishonest way: *Don't try to weasel out and say you don't remember what happened.*

+ of *Fife is trying to weasel out of $25 million in debts.*

WED

be wedded to

1 **be wedded to** *sth*

formal to believe strongly that a particular idea or way of doing something is right, so that you would not be willing to accept something different: *Most Republicans were wedded to conservative economic policies.* | *The Vatican remains firmly wedded to traditional moral values.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be committed (to)**

2 **be wedded to** | *sth*

formal if you are wedded to a particular activity, it is the most important thing in your life and you think of nothing else: *A passionate jazz enthusiast, Kennedy is totally wedded to his music.* | *She might have enjoyed a fuller life if she had not been so fervently wedded to her job.*

WEDGE

be wedged in

be wedged in

to be stuck in a small space: *Firemen had difficulty freeing the injured driver, who was wedged in behind the steering-wheel.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be trapped**

WEED

weeded, weeded, weeding

weed out

weed out | *sb/sth*   **weed** | *sb/sth* | **out**

to get rid of some people or things from a group, because they are unsuitable or not good enough: *A committee was established to weed out corrupt party officials.* | *First we need to weed out any data that is no longer valid.* | *a system of tests designed to weed out candidates who lack leadership qualities*

WEIGH

weighed, weighed, weighing

weigh against

1 **weigh** | *sth* | **against** | *sth*

to consider carefully whether one thing is more important or better than another, before making a decision: *The potential benefits of nuclear power must be weighed against the risks.* | *Certainly, you'll get a bigger pension if you go on working, but you've got to weigh that against the fact that your health's suffering.*

* SIMILAR TO: **balance against, set against**

2 **weigh against** | *sb/sth*

formal if something weighs against someone or something, it has a bad effect and makes them less likely to be successful: *Her former links with the communist party are bound to weigh against her if she stands for election.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count against**

weigh down

1 **weigh** | *sb* | **down**   **weigh down** | *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are weighed down with something you are carrying, you cannot move easily because it is too heavy

be weighed down with *Sue and Brian staggered home, weighed down with shopping bags.*

2 **weigh** | *sb* | **down**   **weigh down** | *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are weighed down by problems, responsibilities, or feelings of sadness, they make you feel very worried or unhappy: *Paul's mother was now weighed down by the burden of responsibility that had fallen upon her.* | *the terrible feeling of hopelessness that had been weighing her down ever since Howard died*

3 **weigh down** | *sth*   **weigh** | *sth* | **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a problem weighs down an organization, it prevents it from growing and being successful: *By 1990 the company was already weighed down by a heavy burden of debt.* | *a banking crisis that was weighing down Japan's economy*

weigh in

1 **weigh in**

to start to take part in a discussion or argument by adding your own opinions, advice, suggestions etc

+ with *Everyone weighed in with their own suggestions of who should captain the team.* | *Weighing in with her view, Elfriede made it plain that she would not support closing the theatre.* | *Amnesty International weighed in with a condemnation of Utah's capital punishment law.*

2 **weigh in**

to provide support in order to help make something successful

+ with *When the exhibition seemed doomed to failure, the Arts Council weighed in with financial support.* | *Mike Newell weighed in with two fine goals to secure victory for Rovers.*

3 **weigh in**

to be weighed and have your weight officially recorded before taking part in a boxing match, horse race, or other sports competition: *Coming up to his first race of the season, Rogers weighed in over 12 pounds lighter than any other jockey on the circuit.*

+ at *Michael Hopper, who weighed in at 15 stone 10lbs, beat Scotland's Colin Brown in the Boxing Association Championships.*

weigh-in N [SINGULAR]
when a boxer is weighed before a fight or a rider is weighed before a horse race: *At the weigh-in Bruno tipped the scales at 247 pounds against Tyson's 220 pounds.*

W

weigh into

1 **weigh into** *sb*

to criticize someone very strongly: *Immediately, Senator Brown's critics weighed into him with allegations about his business interests.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack, lay into** *informal*

2 **weigh into** *sth*

to start to take part in a discussion or argument by expressing your opinion very strongly: *Churchill weighed into the debate with a speech that silenced all opposition.*

weigh on

1 **weigh on** *sth*

AmE to have the effect of reducing prices, profits, values etc: *Forecasts for warmer weather weighed on heating oil and gas prices.* | *Problems with the federal budget weighed on the dollar.*

2 **weigh on** *sth*

AmE to have the effect of making something less successful or less effective: *Jack is so dedicated to his job that it's weighing on his marriage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **affect**

weigh on/upon

● **Weigh upon** is more formal than **weigh on** and is mostly used in writing.

weigh on/upon *sb*

if troubles, problems, or duties weigh on you, they make you feel worried and not relaxed: *The question of her children's future constantly weighed on her.*

weigh on sb's mind *Lisa's very quiet – I'm sure there's something weighing on her mind.*

weigh heavily on *His responsibilities weigh heavily on him.*

weigh out

weigh out *sth* | **weigh** *sth* **out**

to weigh an amount of something taken from a larger amount, in order to get the exact amount you want: *I watched as he weighed out 200 grams of coffee beans and ground them up.*

weigh up

1 **weigh up** *sth* | **weigh** *sth* **up**

to carefully consider a plan or choice by comparing all the advantages and disadvantages involved, so that you can make a decision: *I think we should weigh up all the advantages and disadvantages of having a hospital right in the centre of the town.* | *After carefully weighing up the costs and potential benefits of using solar energy, the committee gave its approval.*

● COMPARE: **mull over**

2 **weigh** *sb* **up** | **weigh up** *sb*

to spend time watching someone, talking to them, and listening to them in order to form an opinion about them: *I think we spent a little time weighing each other up before we became friends.*

* SIMILAR TO: **size up**

weigh upon

SEE **weigh on/upon**

weigh with

weigh with *sb*

formal if something weighs with someone, it influences their decisions: *Obviously the opinions of national newspapers will weigh with senior politicians.*

weigh heavily with *The fact that she is close to the president will weigh heavily with the committee.*

WEIGHT

weighted, weighted, weighting

weight down

weight down *sth* | **weight** *sth* **down**

to put something heavy on top of an object, or fasten something heavy to an object, in order to make it sink or prevent it from moving: *The sheets of corrugated iron that covered the roof were weighted down with heavy stones against the spring gales.* | *Gazman's body was found weighted down at the bottom of a lake.*

WELCH/WELSH

welched, welched, welching
welshed, welshed, welshing

● Some people think that **welsh on** is insulting to Welsh people, but in fact the origin of this phrasal verb is not connected with Wales.

welch on

welch on *sth/sb* NOT PASSIVE

to not do something that you have promised to do for someone, especially to not pay them money that you promised them: *Former clients are accusing them of welching on deals they had agreed on the telephone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rat on** *informal*

W

WELD

welded, welded, welding

weld together

weld *sb/sth* **together**

weld together *sb/sth*

to firmly unite and join together different groups, parts, organizations etc: *Mr Kohl now faced the task of welding together the two Germanies into one nation.* | *a tough training programme that had welded us together into a cohesive fighting force*

WELL

welled, welled, welling

well up

1 **well up**

literary if tears well up in your eyes, they come into your eyes and you want to cry: *Donna felt tears welling up in her eyes, but she fought back the pain.* | *He turned away so that Anne would not see the tears that were welling up in his eyes.*

2 **well up**

literary if a feeling wells up in you, you suddenly feel it more strongly: *Anger welled up inside him.* | *A moment of panic welled up in her as she thought to herself, "I must get away."*

* SIMILAR TO: **rise up**

3 **well up**

if liquid wells up, it rises to the surface with sudden force: *Dark blood welled up from the wound on the back of his head.* | *Pools of crude oil welled up from the ground.*

WELSH

welsh on

SEE **welch on**

W

WHACK

whacked, whacked, whacking

whack off

whack off

informal if a boy or man whacks off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jerk off** *AmE informal*

WHALE

whaled, whaled, whaling

whale on

1 **whale on** *sb*

AmE informal to hit someone many times or criticize them strongly: *Darren threw his sister to the ground and began whaling on her.* | *My mother totally whaled on me last night when I showed her my grades.*

2 **whale on** *sth*

AmE informal to his something or play with it in a rough way, using a lot of force: *He just whales on the guitar and creates a horrible noise.* | *Lester whaled on the ball, trying to hit a home run.*

WHEEL

wheeled, wheeled, wheeling

wheel around ALSO wheel round *BrE*

wheel around/round

to turn around suddenly, especially because you are angry or surprised: *Hearing a voice behind him, Henry wheeled around, his sword in his hand.* | *Unable to ignore this insult, Elinor wheeled round in fury to face his rival.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swing around, whip around**

wheel out

1 **wheel out** *sth/sb* **wheel** *sth/sb* **out**

to use someone or something to support your opinion or in order to persuade people that you are right: *A number of scientific experts were wheeled out to support the government's assurances about the safety of nuclear power.*

wheel out the big guns (=show the most important people that are available, to help you achieve something) *The Tories are wheeling out the big guns to help their campaign.*

2 **wheel out** *sth/sb* **wheel** *sth/sb* **out**

to use the same things or people that you have often used before, in a way that is boring: *Christmas television is so tedious – they wheel out the same old films year after year.*

wheel round

SEE **wheel around**

WHILE/WILE

whiled, whiled, whiling
wiled, wiled, wiling

while/wile away

while away *sth* | **while** *sth* **away**

if you while away a period of time, you spend it in a pleasantly relaxing way: *We whiled away the long afternoon over a game of cards.* | *the garden where I wiled away many happy hours watching the birds*

* SIMILAR TO: **idle away**

WHIP

whipped, whipped, whipping

whip around
ALSO **whip round** *BrE*

whip around/round

to turn around very quickly, especially because you are angry: *He whipped around in fury, and I took a nervous step backwards.* | *Henry gave a bitter laugh. His wife whipped round at him. "You're laughing at me?" she demanded.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wheel around**

whip into

whip *sb* **into a frenzy/fury/fervour**

to make people feel very excited or angry about something, especially by talking to them: *We gather in a crowd and whip one another into a frenzy of enthusiasm* | *a speaker who had the power to whip his audience into a fervour of indignation*

whip out

whip out *sth* | **whip** *sth* **out**

to quickly bring something out from your pocket, bag etc: *Before I could stop him, Drew whipped out his revolver and fired a shot over their heads.* | *On a sudden impulse, I whipped my checkbook out and wrote out a donation of $500 to Greenpeace.*

whip round *BrE*

SEE **whip around**

whip through

whip through *sth*

to do a piece of work or read something very quickly: *Louise managed to whip through the rest of her routine paperwork before lunch.* | *Some people can whip through a document in a few minutes and remember all the details.*

whip up

1 **whip up** *sth/sb* | **whip** *sth/sb* **up**

to make a lot of people feel interested, excited, or angry about something: *a propaganda campaign designed to whip up support for the war effort* | *They were accused of trying to whip up anti-American feeling.* | *Mosley's attempt to whip up the crowd with his nationalistic slogans*

* SIMILAR TO: **stir up**

2 **whip up** *sth* | **whip** *sth* **up**

to quickly make something to eat: *If you girls are hungry, I can whip up something to eat in no time.* | *Whip up this delicious sweet in five minutes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rustle up**

3 **whip up** *sth* | **whip** *sth* **up**

to mix cream or the clear part of an egg very quickly with a fork until it is stiff: *Whip up the cream into soft peaks and fold it into the yoghurt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **whip, whisk**

4 **whip** *sth* **up** | **whip up** *sth*

if the wind whips up dust or the surface of water, it makes it rise up with a sudden violent movement: *A strong wind whips up clouds of red dust from the dry plains.* | *raging seas whipped up by a force nine gale*

WHISK

whisked, whisked, whisking

whisk away/off

whisk *sb* **away/off** | **whisk away/off** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to take someone quickly away from a place: *Immediately after the show, the new Miss America was whisked away in a chauffeur-driven limousine.* | *Willis and four men were whisked off to jail for the night.*

whisk up

whisk up *sth* | **whisk** *sth* **up**

to mix liquids or soft foods very quickly so that air is mixed in, especially using a fork or a special kitchen tool: *The cocktail consisted of brandy whisked up with white of egg and the juice of a fresh lemon.*

W

WHISTLE

whistled, whistled, whistling

whistle by/past

whistle by/past *sth/sb* | **whistle by/past**

NOT PASSIVE

to move very quickly past something or

someone and often very close to them: *You should have seen Ben's expression when the ball whistled past his ear.* | *Several trains whistled by, one after the other.*

whistle for

he/she can whistle for *sth*

BrE spoken if you say that someone can whistle for something that they have asked for, you mean that you are not going to give it to them: *If he's coming here to ask me for money, then he can go home and whistle for it.*

whistle up

whistle up *sth/sb*

informal to arrange for something or someone to appear quickly: *If you need a water taxi you can whistle one up at the gloriously posh Oriental Hotel.* | *The government seems to be able to whistle up a crowd of demonstrators at a moment's notice.*

WHITTLE

whittled, whittled, whittling

whittle away (at)

whittle away *sth* **whittle** *sth* **away**

whittle away at

to gradually reduce the amount, value, or effectiveness of something: *The power of the monarchy was gradually whittled away by successive parliaments.* | *Inflation has gradually whittled away at the value of state pensions.* | *Much of the country's national parkland has been whittled away, as the army has taken over more and more land for training.*

whittle down

whittle down *sth* **whittle** *sth* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to gradually reduce the size of a number, amount, or group by taking parts away: *The original list of 25 competitors has been whittled down to six finalists.* | *The cost had been estimated at $300,000 but by making cuts in various places we whittled it down to $230,000.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **narrow down**

WHOOP

whoop up

whoop it up

informal to enjoy yourself by having a lot of noisy fun with other people: *We spent the whole summer whooping it up at the nightclubs on Corfu.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **live it up**

WIG

wigged, wigged, wigging

wig out

wig out **wig** *sb* **out**

AmE informal to be very anxious, upset, or frightened, or to make someone feel like this: *The thought of seeing Mick again really wigs me out.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **freak out** *informal*

WILE

wile away

SEE **while/wile away**

WIMP

wimped, wimped, wimping

wimp out

wimp out

informal to decide not to do something that you had intended to do, because you are too frightened to do it: *He said he'd give a speech at the wedding, but then he wimped out at the last minute.*

+ **of** *Make sure he comes to the party – don't let him wimp out of it.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **chicken out** *informal*

WIN

won, won, winning

win around

SEE **win round/around**

win back

win back *sth/sb* **win** *sth/sb* **back**

to succeed in getting back something or someone that you had in the past, especially after it was taken from you by someone else: *The Democrats were hoping to win back control of Congress at the election.* | *Graf managed to win back her Wimbledon title.* | *Eventually the girl's mother went to the European Court of Human Rights in an attempt to win back her child.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **regain**

win out

1 **win out**

to succeed or defeat others after a long struggle or contest: *In the end, the environmentalists won out and the nuclear plant was not built.*

+ **over** *British Airways finally won out over its competitors and was awarded the contract.*

2 **win out**

if one feeling or quality wins out, in the end it is stronger than other feelings or qualities: *In the end, my curiosity won out and I had to read the letter.*

win over

win over *sb* **win** *sb* **over**

to persuade someone to support you, or to get them to like you, especially when they did not before: *We'll be working even harder over the next ten days to win over the undecided voters.* | *Eventually Thomas won my father over, with his cheerful confidence and good sense of humour.* | *The jury were obviously completely won over by her performance in the witness box.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **win round/around**

win round/around

win *sb* **round/around**

win round/around *sb*

BrE to persuade someone to agree with you or do what you want, especially when they did not want to before: *After a long debate, Darwin finally succeeded in winning Hooker round to his own way of thinking.* | *Tess knew that it would probably only take a smile and a joke to win her parents around.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **win over**

win through

1 **win through**

especially BrE to finally succeed in achieving something or dealing with a difficult situation: *We are confident that we will win through in the end and get what we want.*

2 **win through**

especially BrE to succeed in winning a place in another stage of a competition, after defeating others in a game or sport

+ to *He is confident that England will win through to the final.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **go through**

WIND

wound, wound, winding

wind back

wind *sth* **back** **wind back** *sth*

if you wind back a tape on which sound or pictures etc are recorded, you make it move backwards towards its starting point, by pressing a button: *Could you wind back the video to the beginning?* | *The message on my answering machine wasn't very clear, so I wound the tape back and listened again.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rewind**

● OPPOSITE: **wind on, wind forward**

wind down

1 **wind down** **wind down** *sth*

wind *sth* **down**

if a company or organization winds down or you wind it down, it gradually does less work, especially before it is closed completely: *America has been winding down its NATO bases here, following the end of the cold war.* | *The original mill is winding down after over a hundred years in textile production.*

2 **wind down** **wind down** *sth*

wind *sth* **down**

if something that people are doing winds down, or if someone winds it down, they gradually do less of it, before stopping completely: *The strikes, which had gone on for weeks, were gradually wound down before Christmas.* | *Keller said he would be winding down his involvement in sport in the summer.* | *The football season is winding down now, with only three weeks to go.*

3 **wind down**

to gradually relax after you have been working or after you have been anxious or worried: *Have a drink – you look like you need to wind down.* | *After a tough day it's great to wind down in front of the TV and not to have anything to worry about.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **unwind**

4 **wind down**

if a clock or watch winds down, it gradually goes more and more slowly until it stops: *The clock in the hall had wound down and stopped.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **run down**

5 **wind down** *sth* **wind** *sth* **down**

BrE to open a car window by making the glass move down using a handle or a button: *She wound down her window and called to me across the street.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **roll down** *especially AmE*

● OPPOSITE: **wind up** *BrE*

wind forward

wind *sth* **forward** **wind forward** *sth*

especially BrE if you wind forward a tape on which sound or pictures etc are recorded, you make it move forward towards the end, by pressing a button: *I wound the tape forward until I found the song I wanted to hear.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wind on**

● OPPOSITE: **wind back**

wind on

1 **wind** *sth* **on** **wind on** *sth*

BrE if you wind on a tape on which sound or

pictures are recorded, or a film in a camera, you make it move forward towards the end, by pressing a button: *I wound the tape on to the next song.* | *That photograph I took of you didn't come out – I must have forgotten to wind the film on.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wind forward**

● OPPOSITE: **wind back**

2 **wind on**

if a period of time winds on, it gradually passes: *It got colder and colder as the day wound on.* | *The months wound on and still we'd had no news of our son.*

wind up

1 **wind** *sth* **up** | **wind up** *sth* | **wind up**

if you wind up a meeting or activity or it winds up, you end it or it ends: *I walked in as Palmer was winding up the debate with an extremely clever and amusing speech.* | *The Foreign Minister wound up a two-day visit by announcing an agreement with Havana.* | *With a bit of luck, the meeting should wind up by about four o'clock.*

2 **wind** *sth* **up** | **wind up** *sth* USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to reduce the activity of a business, organization etc until it closes completely: *The department is being wound up and its responsibilities will be distributed elsewhere.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **wind down**

3 **wind up**

informal to get into a particular situation or place at the end of a long series of events and without wanting to: *That's enough for one night or you'll wind up drunk.* | *Stricter discipline is needed in order to stop children like these winding up in reform school or prison.* | *If the situation continues, some doctors could wind up losing their jobs.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **end up**

4 **wind** *sb* **up** | **wind up** *sb*

informal, especially BrE to deliberately say or do something that you know will annoy or worry someone, because you think it is funny: *Don't pay any attention to him! He's just winding you up!* | *A lot of teenagers seem to enjoy winding up their parents.*

wind-up N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]
something that someone says or does deliberately to annoy another person: *Are you serious, or is this just a wind-up?*

5 **wind** *sb* **up** | **wind up** *sb*

informal if something winds you up, it annoys you: *It really winds me up when people criticize things they know nothing about.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **annoy, piss sb off** *informal*

6 **be wound up**

BrE informal if someone is wound up, they feel tense and anxious and unable to relax

+ about *Sarah's very wound up about her interview next week.*

get wound up *Try not to get too wound up about the exams.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **be anxious, be nervous**

7 **wind** *sth* **up** | **wind up** *sth*

to wrap something long such as string or hair around itself, so that it forms the shape of a ball: *She wound her hair up and pinned it on top of her head.*

+ into *The sales assistant cut off a length of wire and wound it up into a ball.*

8 **wind** *sth* **up** | **wind up** *sth*

to make a clock, watch, or machine work, by turning a handle or key: *It's a lovely old watch, but you have to remember to wind it up every day.*

wind-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
operated by a key or handle that you turn in order to make it work: *Valeria had an old wind-up gramophone and a collection of records.*

9 **wind** *sth* **up** | **wind up** *sth*

BrE to close a car window by making the glass move upwards using a handle or a button: *Tell me if you're cold in the back and I'll wind up the window.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **roll up** *especially AmE*

● OPPOSITE: **wind down** *BrE*

WINK

winked, winked, winking

wink at

wink at *sth*

if someone in authority winks at something bad or illegal, they pretend not to notice it and do not try to stop it: *For a long time the authorities winked at the illegal trade, and even helped themselves to some of the profits.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn a blind eye to sth**

WINKLE

winkled, winkled, winkling

winkle out

1 **winkle** *sb* **out** | **winkle out** *sb*

BrE to make someone leave a position or place, even though it is difficult because they do not want to leave

+ of *Critics such as Douglas Wass were winkled out of their positions of influence.* | *Smoke bombs and stun grenades were used to winkle the terrorists out of the building.*

W

2 **winkle out** *sth* **winkle** *sth* **out**

BrE to succeed in getting something, especially information that someone does not want to tell you, by asking them a lot of questions

+ of *Mrs Fulton finally managed to winkle the truth out of him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **worm out**

WIPE

wiped, wiped, wiping

wipe down

wipe down *sth* **wipe** *sth* **down**

to clean the surface of a table, wall, shelf etc using a wet cloth: *Polly finished drying the dishes, and wiped down the cooker and the work surfaces.*

wipe off

wipe *sth* **off** **wipe off** *sth*

wipe *sth* **off** *sth*

BrE to reduce the price or value of something by a particular amount – use this especially about profits, shares etc: *The recession wiped 62% off the company's pre-tax profits.* | *Following the rise in interest rates, the stock market plunged, wiping billions off the value of shares.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock off**

wipe out

1 **wipe out** *sth* **wipe** *sth* **out**

to destroy or get rid of something completely: *Thousands of people died, whole villages were wiped out and towns abandoned.* | *By recycling water, farmers risk diseases which could wipe out their crops.* | *We're going to use the money to wipe out all our debts and start again.*

2 **wipe out** *sb* **wipe** *sb* **out**

to defeat someone easily in a competition, election etc: *Labour was completely wiped out at the last general election.*

* SIMILAR TO: **thrash** *informal*, **hammer** *informal*

3 **wipe** *sth* **out** **wipe out** *sth*

to clean the inside of something, using a wet cloth: *I emptied all the drawers and wiped them out with a cloth.* | *Can you wipe out the sink for me?*

4 **be wiped out**

spoken to be extremely tired, especially because you have been very busy: *I was working from six in the morning till ten at night, and by the end of the week I was completely wiped out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be exhausted, be shattered**

5 **wipe** *sb* **out**

informal to make someone very tired: *That run wiped me out for the rest of the day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exhaust**

6 **wipe out**

informal especially AmE to fall down when you are skiing, surfing, riding a bike etc, or crash in a race: *Brandon totally wiped out going around the last corner.*

wipe up

1 **wipe up** *sth* **wipe** *sth* **up**

to remove liquid or dirt from a surface using a cloth: *Anne got a cloth and quickly started wiping up the wine.* | *Someone's got to wipe up this mess!*

wipe up after sb (=wipe up the mess someone has made) *He's a very messy eater – I'm always having to wipe up after him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mop up**

2 **wipe up** **wipe up** *sth* **wipe** *sth* **up**

BrE to dry plates, glasses etc that have been washed, using a cloth: *After Sunday lunch, my father washed the dishes while my sisters and I wiped up.* | *It'll take me hours to wipe up all these glasses!*

* SIMILAR TO: **dry up**

WIRE

wired, wired, wiring

be wired in/into

be wired in *sth* **be wired into** *sth*

AmE informal to be very involved in a particular subject, job etc, so that you know a lot about it or have a lot of contact with it: *Albers was wired into the art world both at home and in the United States.* | *Few organizations are better wired in to City Hall than the labour unions.*

wire up

wire *sth/sb* **up** **wire up** *sth/sb*

to connect something or someone to a piece of electrical equipment by using wires

+ to *The house is wired up to a very expensive alarm system.* | *I spent the whole day in hospital, wired up to various machines for tests.*

W

WISE

wised, wised, wising

wise up

wise up

AmE to understand something better or realize the unpleasant truth about something, or to

make someone do this: *You'd better wise up, Mattie, and listen to what they're saying.* | *Voters are beginning to wise up and realize that it's the economy that's important, not details about politicians private lives.*

wise sb up to sth *If he doesn't know what's wrong with their marriage, someone had better wise him up to it.*

WISH

wished, wished, wishing

wish away

wish *sth* **away** | **wish away** *sth*

USUALLY NEGATIVE

to hope that a problem will disappear easily without you having to do anything about it: *Racism is a serious problem in our society, and you can't just wish it away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hope that something will go away**

wish for

1 **wish for** *sth*

to want something and to hope that you will get it, or that it will happen, often by silently asking for it: *There was no escape now – the only thing they could do was wish for a miracle.* | *As a child, Jenna had everything she could possibly wish for.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hope (for)**

2 **couldn't wish for more/better etc**

BrE used to emphasize that something or someone is as good, nice etc as they could possibly be: *"Everyone has been so good to me," John said. "I couldn't wish for better friends."* | *It seemed to other people that she had everything she wanted; she couldn't wish for more.*

wish on/upon

wouldn't wish sth on anyone/ on my worst enemy etc

spoken used to emphasize that you think a situation is extremely bad or unpleasant, and you would not want it to happen even to someone you dislike: *You don't know what it's like to watch your brother die; I wouldn't wish it on anyone.* | *It was a terrible experience – I wouldn't have wished it on my worst enemy.*

W

WITHER

withered, withered, withering

wither away

1 **wither away**

to gradually become weaker and finally stop existing: *These small communities are slowly withering away, as the young people move to the towns.* | *In the end most protest movements lose support and wither away.*

2 **wither away**

if plants wither away, they become dry and start to die: *I got back from holiday to find that all my plants had withered away.*

WITTER

witter

witter on

BrE informal to keep talking for a long time in a boring way, about unimportant things: *I tried to smile and nod politely as he wittered on.*

+ about *We had to sit and listen to him wittering on about his love life all evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drone on, waffle on** *BrE*

WOLF

wolfed, wolfed, wolfing

wolf down

wolf down *sth* | **wolf** *sth* **down**

informal to eat food very quickly, especially because you are very hungry: *Purvis was sitting in a burger bar wolfing down a cheeseburger and fries.* | *When dinner finally came, we wolfed it down in five minutes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gulp down**

WONDER

wondered, wondered, wondering

wonder at

wonder at *sth*

to feel very surprised by something because it is so unusual, special, or difficult to understand: *Eileen wondered at her sister's ability to know exactly what she was thinking.* | *I sometimes wonder at the stupidity of these people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **marvel at**

WORK

worked, worked, working

work against

work against *sb/sth*

if something works against you, it makes it harder for you to achieve something: *In those days the company career structure tended to work against women and prevent them from getting to the top.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count against**

work around
ALSO **work round** *BrE*

work around/round *sth*

to organize what you are doing so that you are able to do it in spite of things that could have stopped you or limited you: *I agree that this is a major problem, but we'll just have to work around it.* | *It soon became clear that it wasn't possible to work around the existing law.*

work around/round to

work around/round to *sth*

to very gradually prepare yourself or other people for something that you are going to say or do, for example because it is difficult or embarrassing: *It was a difficult subject to talk about with my boss, and I knew that I must work around to it gradually.* | *Martin was clearly working round to saying something, so I waited to hear what it was.*

work at

work at *sth*

to try hard to improve or achieve something: *Budd always had a terrible temper, and really had to work at self-control.*

work at it *If you work at it, your reading will improve over time.*

work at doing sth *This year we've worked hard at expanding the business, and it's done very well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work on**

work away

work away

to keep working hard for a long time: *At the studio we were able to see engineers and technicians working away in the control room.*

+ at *I went round the back and found Jake working away at a table he was making.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beaver away** *BrE informal*, **slog away** *BrE informal*

work in

1 **work** *sth* **in** | **work in** *sth*

to add one substance to another and mix them together thoroughly: *Add the butter to the flour and work it in with your fingers.*

2 **work** *sth* **in** | **work in** *sth*

to rub a soft substance into a surface until it disappears completely: *Using a cloth, work the wax in well, and allow it to dry before polishing the wood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rub in**

3 **work in** *sth* | **work** *sth* **in**

to cleverly include something in a speech or a piece of writing: *During the interview he managed to work in a reference to his new book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slip in**

work into

1 **work** *sth* **into** *sth*

to add one substance to another and mix them together thoroughly: *Gradually work the remaining flour into the dough.*

2 **work** *sth* **into** *sth*

to rub a soft substance into a surface until it disappears completely: *Work the cream gently into your skin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rub (into)**

3 **work** *sth* **into** *sth*

to cleverly include something in a speech or a piece of writing: *He managed to work a few jokes into his talk.*

4 **work yourself into a state/rage/frenzy etc**

to become very angry or upset about something, especially something that is not very important: *She's worked herself into a real state about her electricity bill.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work yourself up**

work off

1 **work off** *sth* | **work** *sth* **off**

to get rid of an unpleasant feeling, for example anger or worry, by doing something that uses energy: *If I feel aggressive and frustrated at the end of the day, I sometimes go swimming to try and work it off.* | *It's often a good idea to work off some of your tension by walking to the interview.*

2 **work off** *sth* | **work** *sth* **off**

to do something that uses energy after you have eaten a lot, in order to stop yourself getting fat or so that you feel less full: *Physical exercise is good for working off those extra calories.* | *I suggested going for a long walk, to try and work off the enormous lunch we'd had.*

3 **work off** *sth* | **work** *sth* **off**

to pay back a debt by earning the money you owe, or by working without pay for the person who lent you the money: *The company managed to work off billions of dollars of debt incurred in the 1980s.* | *I'm not taking out another loan – it took me years to work off the last one.*

4 **work off** *sth*

if a piece of equipment works off a particular supply of power, it uses that supply to make it work: *The alarm works off the car's own battery.*

work on

1 **work on** *sth*

to work in order to produce or achieve something: *At the time of her death she was working on a new novel.* | *Are you working on any films at the moment?* | *The company is working on a new version of its world-famous 'Beetle' car.*

2 **work on** *sth*

to spend time trying to improve something in order for it to be successful: *Chris is a strong player, but he needs to work on his technique.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **work at**

3 **work on** *sth*

to spend time working to repair something: *He spends most of his weekends working on his motorbike.*

4 **work on** *sb*

to keep trying to persuade or influence someone, for example so that they will agree to do something, or to let you do something: *The authorities still don't want to put traffic lights on the bridge, but we're working on them.* | *I've been working on my mum to let me have a motorbike for ages now.*

work out

1 **work out** *sth* **work** *sth* **out**

to calculate the answer to a problem that involves numbers, amounts, prices etc: *"How much will all the building work cost?" "I haven't worked out the exact figures yet."* | *Francis sat down to work out how much of his salary he would have to save each year.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **calculate**

2 **work out** *sth* **work** *sth* **out**

to think carefully about something in order to decide what you should do or how you should do it: *Rod's spent over an hour working out the best route to take.* | *UN negotiators were busy working out a way to end the dispute.*

+ what/where/how etc *We know what we're aiming at, but we still have to work out how to put it into practice.*

have it all worked out (=have completely planned how you are going to do something) *I have no idea how to do this, but Sid says he has it all worked out.*

3a **work out** *sth* **work** *sth* **out**

especially BrE to succeed in understanding something by thinking carefully about it

+ what/why/how etc *She finally managed to work out how to switch the machine on.* | *There was obviously something wrong, but I couldn't work out what it was.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **figure out, suss out** *spoken, especially BrE*

3b **work** *sb* **out**

BrE to understand someone's character or why they behave as they do: *Don looked at her, puzzled. He was still trying to work this girl out.*

can't work sb out *I can't work Geoff out, one day he's friendly and the next he ignores me completely.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **make sb out, figure sb out**

4 **work out**

if the cost of something works out at a particular amount, that is what it costs when you calculate the figures

+ at *At the end of the evening, the meal worked out at £15 each.*

+ to be *The total cost of advertising works out to be about $900 million annually.*

work out expensive/cheap etc (=be expensive or cheap) *If we go by taxi, it's going to work out very expensive.*

5 **work out**

if something works out, it is successful: *The marriage didn't work out, and we split up after two years.* | *About three years ago, I made a decision to open a restaurant, and luckily for me it's all worked out perfectly.*

6 **work out**

if a situation works out in a particular way, it happens or develops in that way

work out well/badly etc *Financially, things have worked out very well for us.* | *At the time, the situation seemed hopeless, but in the end it all worked out fine.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **turn out**

7 **work out**

to do physical exercises, especially regularly, in order to make your body fit and strong: *I've started to work out in the gym two or three times a week.*

workout N [C]
a period of physical exercise or training: *Then we went and had a shower and breakfast, just what we needed after a good workout.*

8 **work itself out**

if a problem or a difficult situation works itself out, it gradually becomes less and less difficult until it stops existing: *There are always problems when you start something new like this, but they usually work themselves out in time.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **resolve itself**

9 **be worked out**

if a mine is worked out, all the coal, gold etc has been removed from it. A mine is a place where coal, gold etc is dug out of the ground:

The mine, which is in the Forest of Dean, is almost worked out now, after 700 years of use.

* SIMILAR TO: **be exhausted**

10 **work out your notice/contract**

to continue to do your job until the end of a fixed period of time that you had agree to work: *She's resigned, but she still has to work out her three months' notice.*

work over

work *sb* **over** **work over** *sb*

informal to hit someone hard many times: *The gang tied him to a chair and worked him over, until they got tired and left him, half dead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat up, do over** *BrE spoken informal*

work round

SEE **work around/round**

work through

1 **work through** *sth* **work** *sth* **through**

to deal with a problem or difficulty by discussing it in detail until you find a solution you are happy with: *Mann feels that he has a special relationship with Lofte that will enable them to work through any differences.* | *If neither of you wants a divorce, then you'll just have to work it through.* | *Conflicts of interest were bound to happen, and they had to be worked through by negotiation and bargaining.*

2 **work through** *sth* **work** *sth* **through**

to deal with strong feelings of anger, sadness, guilt etc by talking or thinking about them until you feel more in control of them or understand them better: *When someone close to you dies, you need support so that you can work through your grief.* | *Tom's fear of relationships had to be explored and worked through.*

3 **work through** **work through** *sth*

if the result of a decision or an action works through, it gradually has an effect: *It always takes time for a change in policy to work through.* | *The educational reforms will work through the system slowly, over several years.*

4 **work through**

to continue working for a long period without stopping for a break: *Liz starts work at 5.30 pm, and works through until midnight.*

work towards
ALSO **work toward** *AmE*

work towards/toward *sth*

to try hard to achieve something that can only be achieved gradually, over a period of time: *The two sides have been working toward an agreement for several months.* | *The government is working towards greater openness and less secrecy.*

work up

1 **work up** *sth* **work** *sth* **up**

if you work up a feeling such as courage, interest, or sympathy, you try to make yourself feel it, especially with difficulty: *We'd already lost one game, and we couldn't work up any enthusiasm for another.*

work up the courage/energy to do sth *The boys were obviously watching us, and working up the courage to speak to us.* | *I'm so tired I can't even work up the energy to go to bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **summon up**

2 **work up an appetite/thirst**

to make yourself feel hungry or thirsty, by taking some exercise or waiting a long time before you eat or drink: *We went for a brisk walk along the beach to work up an appetite for dinner.*

3 **be worked up**

to feel very angry, excited, or upset about something: *Mel seemed to be very worked up about something.*

get worked up (about sth) *Tim's always late, so there's no point in getting so worked up about it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be agitated**

4 **work** *sb* **up**

to make someone feel upset, worried, or excited

+ into *He was a brilliant speaker and knew exactly how to work his audience up into a state of excitement.*

work yourself up *Stop working yourself up over nothing and let's have a drink.*

5 **work** *sth* **up** **work up** *sth*

to produce a final plan, design, or piece of writing from the ideas or information that you have: *U-Haul worked up the design for the posters and Dial Corp is printing them.*

+ into *I'd like you to take detailed notes, and work them up into a report later.*

6 **work up**

to gradually increase the amount of something that you do or take regularly: *In general with this drug, it's best to start with a low dose and then work up.*

+ to *Start with ten minutes of exercises each day and work up to half an hour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build up**

7 **work up a sweat**

to take enough exercise to make your body

get hot and start to sweat (=produce liquid from your skin): *You need to run two or three miles a day, just enough to work up a sweat.*

work up to

1 | **work up to** | *sth* | | **work** | *sb* | **up to** | *sth* |

to gradually get ready to do something that seems difficult, or tell someone something that seems embarrassing: *Topaz suddenly realized that Tim was working up to a proposal of marriage.*

work up to doing sth *I hope you're not working up to telling me that you can't pay me what you owe.*

work yourself up to doing sth *They've been working themselves up to asking for a pay rise, but I don't think they'll get it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead up to sth**

2 | **work up to** | *sth* |

to gradually do more of something, or do something that is more and more difficult, until you reach a particular level: *If I were you I'd do the easy questions and then work up to the more difficult ones.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build up to sth**

WORM

wormed, wormed, worming

worm out

| **worm** | *sth* | **out of** | *sb* |

informal to succeed in getting information from someone although they do not want to give it, especially by asking them a lot of questions: *Nobody knows who his new girlfriend is yet, but I'm going to try and worm it out of him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **winkle out**

WORRY

worried, worried, worrying

W

worry at

1 | **worry at** | *sth* |

to think about a problem a lot in order to find a solution or understand it better, especially because you feel worried and cannot stop yourself thinking about it: *As I cycled home I kept worrying at the problem, going over it all in my mind. | It's no good worrying at it at this time of night, there's nothing we can do.*

2 | **worry at** | *sth* |

if an animal worries at something, it holds it in its mouth and keeps biting or shaking it: *The dog was barking excitedly and worrying at a piece of old cloth.*

WRAP

wrapped, wrapped, wrapping

wrap in

| **wrap** | *sth/sb* | **in** | *sth* |

to fold paper, cloth etc around something or someone, for example in order to protect them or keep them warm: *Wrap the meat in foil and cook it for an hour in a hot oven. | The baby had been left outside the police station, wrapped in a blanket.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

wrap up

1 | **wrap** | *sth* | **up** | | **wrap up** | *sth* |

to fold a piece of paper or cloth around something so that it is completely covered, especially in order to give or send it to someone, or to protect it: *She gave me a box of chocolates, beautifully wrapped up in silver paper. | My grandmother took out the wedding dress and showed it to me, then wrapped it up again and put it away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do up**

● COMPARE: **parcel up**

2 | **wrap up** | *sth* | | **wrap** | *sth* | **up** |

to complete a job, agreement or an activity in a successful way: *They hope to have the deal all wrapped up in a couple of days.*

that about wraps it up (=used when saying that something has been completed successfully) *"I think that about wraps the case up," said the officer, with a satisfied smile.*

wrap-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] *especially AmE* a wrap-up line, question etc, is one that completes something that you have been writing or saying: *Kate was pleased with her wrap-up line, and shut her notebook.*

3 | **wrap up/wrap yourself up** |

to put on warm clothes before going outside when it is cold: *It's icy out there tonight. You'd better wrap up.*

+ in *if you're going skiing it's best to wrap yourself up in the warmest clothes you can find.*

wrap yourself up *When the weather was cold, Felix used to wrap himself up in a big black woollen cloak.*

4 | **be wrapped up in** | *sth/sb* |

to give so much of your attention, thought etc to something or someone that you have no time for anything else: *James complained that his wife was completely wrapped up in the children, and had no time for him. | Nowadays many people are too wrapped up in work and money to really enjoy life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be bound up in sth/sb**

5 **be wrapped up in** *sth*

if you are wrapped up in what you are doing, you are so involved in it that you do not notice what is happening around you: *He was so wrapped up in his book that I had to repeat my question three times before he even heard it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be absorbed in**

WRESTLE

wrestled, wrestled, wrestling

wrestle with

1 **wrestle with** *sth*

to try very hard to deal with a difficult problem or situation, or find an answer to it: *Mathematicians had been wrestling with this problem for centuries, and Fematt was the first one to find a solution.* | *I spent the morning wrestling with the complexities of setting up my new fax machine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **struggle with**

2 **wrestle with your conscience**

to try very hard to decide whether it is all right or acceptable for you to do something: *I knew it would be a very expensive trip, but after wrestling with my conscience for a while, I decided to spend the money and go.*

3 **wrestle with** *sth*

to have difficulty controlling or holding something that is very large or heavy: *The airport was full of passengers, all wrestling with their luggage.* | *Anne wrestled with the map, which seemed to be bigger than she was.*

* SIMILAR TO: **struggle with**

WRIGGLE

wriggled, wriggled, wriggling

wriggle out of

wriggle out of *sth*

informal to avoid doing something that you should do, by finding excuses or reasons for not doing it: *You promised you'd help me this evening, so don't try to wriggle out of it now!*

wriggle out of doing sth *She managed to wriggle out of paying for any of the food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get out of, duck out of** *informal*

WRING

wrung, wrung, wringing

wring from/out of

1 **wring** *sth* **from/out of** *sb*

to get information, money, an agreement etc from someone, but only with great difficulty, or by forcing them to give it: *Carla was determined to win the case and wring every dollar she could out of her ex-husband.* | *He finally wrung permission from the War Cabinet for three naval brigades to be sent to Antwerp.*

2 **wring** *sth* **from/out of** *sb*

to make someone feel a particular emotion, by deliberately behaving in a way that causes this emotion: *Nigel felt annoyed with Elinor for trying to wring sympathy out of him in this way.* | *Streep has a startling talent for wringing emotional responses from an audience.*

wring out

wring out *sth* **wring** *sth* **out**

to remove the liquid from a wet cloth or piece of clothing, by twisting it tightly with your hands: *Alice picked up her swimming costume and wrung it out over the sink.*

WRITE

wrote, written, writing

write away

write away

to write a letter to a company or an organization asking them to send you goods or information

+ for *I've just written away for their catalogue.* | *Rosie helped Maggie to write away for the application form and then to fill it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off, send away, write off**

write back

write back

to reply to a letter that someone sent you, by writing a letter to them: *I wrote back immediately, thanking them for their kind invitation.*

+ to *Ally sent him letters every week, but he never wrote back to her once.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reply**

write down

write down *sth* **write** *sth* **down**

to write something on a piece of paper: *This is the address – do you want to write it down?* | *These ancient stories were passed on orally, before being written down in the ninth century.*

write in

1 **write in**

to write a letter to an organization in order to give an opinion, ask for information etc: *A lot of people have written in recently criticizing the programme.* | *If you would like to take part in the survey, please write in, sending a stamped addressed envelope.*

2 **write in** *sth* **write** *sth* **in**

to write a piece of information in the space provided for it on a form or document: *Could you write your name in just here, please? | Excuse me, you haven't written in the date on your cheque.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill in**

3 **write** *sb* **in** **write in** *sb*

AmE to add someone's name to the official list on the voting form, to show that you want to vote for them: *The campaign to write in Johnson for governor failed.*

write in/into

1 **write in** *sb/sth* **write** *sb/sth* **in** **write** *sth/sb* **into** *sth*

to add a new character or scene to a book, play, film etc: *His character was written into the play at the very last minute. | When the book was made into a film a lot was changed and new scenes were written in.*

● OPPOSITE: **write out**

2 **write in** *sth* **write** *sth* **in** **write** *sth* **into** *sth*

to include or add something in a contract, agreement etc: *It was written into his contract that he had to make 2 records a year. | They had written in a clause in the agreement which said they were entitled to 50% of the profits.*

write off

1 **write off**

to write a letter to a company or an organization asking them to send you goods or information

+ for *I've written off for more details of the offer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off, write away**

2 **write off** *sb/sth* **write** *sb/sth* **off**

to decide that someone or something is not likely to be successful, or that they are not very good or interesting: *At the time, the team was getting a lot of criticism, and everyone was writing them off.*

+ as *As a politician, he was quickly written off as dull and boring. | After six months of work, we eventually wrote the project off as a non-starter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dismiss**

write-off N [C]
a complete failure or something that is not worth doing, considering etc: *The whole idea was a write-off from the start.*

3 **write off** *sth* **write** *sth* **off**

BrE to crash a vehicle and damage it so badly that it is not worth repairing it: *Her car was written off in a terrible accident on the A34 in Oxfordshire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **total** *AmE*

be a write-off *BrE* N [C]
if a vehicle is a write-off, it has been so badly damaged in a crash that it is not worth repairing it: *Doug's motorbike was a complete write-off and he felt lucky to be alive.*

4 **write off** *sth* **write** *sth* **off**

to officially say that a debt no longer has to be paid or officially accept that you cannot get back the money you have spent or lost: *The United States agreed to write off debts worth billions of dollars. | The Inland Revenue wrote off £900 million in unpaid taxes last year. | The money that has already been spent on the project will have to be written off if the project is cancelled now.*

write-off N [C]
an official statement that a debt no longer has to be paid: *Representatives from the world's poorest countries called for an immediate and total write-off of all foreign debt.*

5 **write off** *sth* **write** *sth* **off**

to make an official record of the amount of money that you have spent on things connected with your business, in order to reduce the amount of tax that you have to pay

write off sth against tax *The costs of setting up the business can be written off against tax. | Companies will be able to write off against taxes only the first $1 million they pay a director or executive.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set off against, set against**

write out

1 **write out** *sth* **write** *sth* **out**

to write something on paper, especially in a very complete, detailed, or neat way: *The children were asked to choose their favourite poem and write it out in their best handwriting. | I have a seven-page proposal here, written out with all the relevant figures.*

2 **write out a cheque/bill/receipt etc**

to write the necessary information on a cheque, bill etc: *I couldn't believe it when he wrote out a cheque for £500 and gave it to me! | We waited while the girl at the desk wrote out our bill.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make out**

3 **write** *sb* **out** **write out** *sb*

USUALLY PASSIVE

to remove a character from a play or a television or radio series, by making him or her leave or die in the story

W

+ of *It was revealed last week that Jody is being written out of the series.*

● OPPOSITE: **write in**

write up

1 **write up** *sth* | **write** *sth* **up**

to write a report, article etc in its final form, especially using notes that you made earlier: *My task was to carry out an interview with a local celebrity, and write it up for the centre page.* | *I took notes during the meeting, but I haven't had a chance to write them up yet.*

2 **be written up**

if something is written up in a newspaper, magazine etc, someone describes what it is like and gives their opinion of it: *We decided to go to a new Spanish restaurant that had been written up in a magazine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be reviewed**

write-up N [C]
a description and opinion of a book, play, restaurant etc that is written in a newspaper or magazine article: *The film's had some brilliant write-ups.*

3 **write** *sth* **up** | **write up** *sth*

to write something on a wall, board etc where people can see it: *The teacher repeated the word, and wrote it up on the board.* | *The name A.J. Warbley was written up in black letters over the shop door.*

4 **write** *sb* **up** | **write up** *sb*

AmE if the police write you up, they make an official report about something that is illegal but not very serious that you have done, and tell you how much money you will have to pay as a punishment: *I've never been written up for any traffic violation in 13 years of driving.*

5 **write** *sb* **up** | **write up** *sb*

AmE if someone in authority writes you up, they make an official report about your bad behaviour: *My supervisor wrote me up for being late three days in a row.*

X

X

x'd, x'd, x'ing

x out

x out *sth* | **x** *sth* **out**

AmE to write an X on something to show that it is a mistake or should not be included in a piece of writing: *Someone had x'ed out my name from the list.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **cross out**

Y

YEARN

yearn, yearned, yearning

yearn for

yearn for *sth*

to have a strong desire for something, especially something that it is difficult for you to get or something for which you waited for a long time: *It was February, and I was already yearning for sunshine and warmth.* | *The people yearned for peace and a chance to rebuild their shattered lives.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

YELL

yelled, yelled, yelling

yell out

yell out *sth* **yell** *sth* **out**

to shout something very loudly, especially because you are very excited, angry, or frightened: *I heard someone yell out, "Hey, that's John Travolta."* | *If you know the answer to the question, don't just yell it out, wait until you're asked.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shout out**

YIELD

yielded, yielded, yielding

yield to

1 **yield to** *sth/sb*

to agree to do something that someone is trying to make you do, even though you do not really want to

yield to pressure (to do sth) *The Prime Minister criticized the striking workers, and promised that the government would not yield to pressure.*

yield to demands *From the official statements coming out of Beijing, there is little sign that the Chinese government will yield to US demands.*

yield to sb *"There is no question of our party yielding to the terrorists," said Mr Seamus Mallon, MP for Newry and Armagh.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in to**

2 **yield to** *sth*

to finally do something that you have been trying not to do, because you cannot control your feelings any more: *"Are you married?" she asked, yielding to her curiosity.*

yield to temptation *Dexter yielded to temptation, and lit a cigarette.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in to**

3 **yield to** *sth*

if one things yields to another, the second thing replaces the first: *Open spaces around towns are yielding to huge hyperstores.* | *Goodrich had been in the navy all his life, watching sail yield to steam and wood to steel.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give way to, be replaced (by)**

yield up

1 **yield up** *sth* **yield** *sth* **up**

formal to show or produce something that was hidden or difficult to find, or that people did not know about: *One day the Titanic will finally yield up its secrets.* | *New research into the functioning of the human brain has yielded up some surprising discoveries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reveal, disclose** *formal*

2 **yield up** *sth* **yield** *sth* **up**

BrE formal to give something that belongs to you to someone else, because you are forced to give it to them: *Angus was outraged, declaring that he would never yield up the castle to the English.*

Z

ZERO
zeroed, zeroed, zeroing

zero in on

1 **zero in on** *sth*

to quickly direct all your attention towards something: *He immediately zeroed in on the weakest part of her argument. | The press is always quick to zero in on any sign of a sex scandal involving politicians.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **home in on, focus on/upon**

2 **zero in on** *sth/sb*

to move quickly and directly towards something in order to attack it – used about planes and missiles: *missiles capable of zeroing in on a target with a high degree of accuracy*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **home in on, pinpoint**

ZIP
zipped, zipped, zipping

zip up

1 **zip up** *sth* | **zip** *sth* **up**

to fasten a piece of clothing or a bag using a zip (=two lines of small pieces of metal that slide together to fasten a piece of clothing or a bag) *Can you zip up my dress for me? | This bag's useless – everytime I try to zip it up, the zip gets stuck.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **do up**

● OPPOSITE: **unzip**

2 **zip up**

if a piece of clothing or a bag zips up, it can be fastened together using a zip (=two lines of small pieces of metal that slide together to fasten a piece of clothing or a bag) *The jacket zips up at the front. | I'm getting too fat for these jeans – they won't zip up anymore.*

zip-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
a zip-up piece of clothing or bag fastens together using a zip: *a zip-up leather jacket*

ZONE
zoned, zoned, zoning

zone out

zone out

AmE informal to stop thinking about anything and not pay attention to anything: *Larry's medication makes him zone out.*

+ on *When Tom gets home from work he just zones out in front of the TV.*

zoned out ADJ
AmE informal unable to think clearly about anything, especially because of the effects of drugs: *Her daughter's zoned out on pills all the time.*

ZONK
zonked, zonked, zonking

zonk out

zonk out

informal, especially AmE to go to sleep quickly and completely because you are very tired: *I was so exhausted that I just wanted to zonk out on the sofa.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **conk out** *informal*, **crash out** *informal*

zonked out *AmE informal*
completely asleep: *The little boy lay zonked out on the back seat.*

ZOOM
zoomed, zoomed, zooming

zoom in

zoom in

if a camera zooms in, it makes the person or thing that you are taking a picture of seem bigger and closer: *The camera zoomed in for a close-up of his face.*

+ on *You can stop the video and zoom in on anything on the screen.*

● OPPOSITE: **zoom out**

zoom off

zoom off

informal to leave somewhere quickly and suddenly: *Mark jumped in his car and zoomed off without even saying goodbye. | The band are in London for a few days before zooming off on a three month world tour.*

∗ SIMILAR TO: **rush off, shoot off** *informal, especially BrE*

zoom out

zoom out

if a camera zooms out, it makes the person of thing you are taking a picture of seem smaller and further away: *The camera zoomed out to show the whole of the city.*

● OPPOSITE: **zoom in**

Irregular Verbs

verb	past tense	past participle
abide	abided, abode	abided
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke, awakened	awoken
be	was/were	been
bear	bore	borne
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
befall	befell	befallen
beget	begot (*also* begat *biblical*)	begotten
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
bend	bent	bent
bereave	bereft, bereaved	bereft, bereaved
beseech	besought, beseeched	besought, beseeched
beset	beset	beset
bestride	bestrode	bestridden
bet	bet, betted	bet, betted
betake	betook	betaken
bethink	bethought	bethought
bid	bade, bid	bid, bidden
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
bless	blessed, blest	blessed, blest
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
browbeat	browbeat	browbeaten
build	built	built
burn	burned, burnt	burned, burnt
burst	burst	burst
bust	(*BrE*) bust, (*esp. AmE*) busted	(*BrE*) bust, (*esp. AmE*) busted
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
chide	chided, chid	chid, chidden
choose	chose	chosen
cleave	cleaved, cleft, clove	cleaved, cleft, cloven
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived, (*AmE*) dove	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed, dreamt	dreamed, dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwell	dwelt, dwelled	dwelt, dwelled
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbear	forbore	forborne
forbid	forbade, forbad	forbidden
forecast	forecast	forecast
foresee	foresaw	foreseen

verb	past tense	past participle
foretell	foretold	foretold
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forgo	forwent	forgone
forsake	forsook	forsaken
forswear	forswore	forsworn
freeze	froze	frozen
gainsay	gainsaid	gainsaid
get	got	got (*also* gotten *AmE*)
gird	girded, girt	girded, girt
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hamstring	hamstrung	hamstrung
hang	hung, hanged	hung, hanged
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
heave	heaved, hove	heaved, hove
hew	hewed	hewn, hewed
hide	hid	hidden, hid
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
input	inputted, input	inputted, input
inset	inset, insetted	inset, insetted
interbreed	interbred	interbred
interweave	interwove	interwoven
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt, (*esp. AmE*) kneeled	knelt, (*esp. AmE*) kneeled
knit	knitted, knit	knitted, knit
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	leaned (*also* leant *esp. BrE*)	leaned (*also* leant *esp. BrE*)
leap	leapt, (*esp. AmE*) leaped	leapt, (*esp. AmE*) leaped
learn	learned, learnt	learned, learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lit, lighted	lit, lighted
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
miscast	miscast	miscast
mishear	misheard	misheard
mislay	mislaid	mislaid
mislead	misled	misled
misread	misread	misread
misspell	misspelt, misspelled	misspelt, misspelled
misspend	misspent	misspent
mistake	mistook	mistaken
misunderstand	misunderstood	misunderstood
mow	mowed	mown, mowed
outbid	outbid	outbid
outdo	outdid	outdone
outgrow	outgrew	outgrown
outride	outrode	outridden
outrun	outran	outrun
outsell	outsold	outsold
outshine	outshone	outshone
overbear	overbore	overborne
overcast	overcast	overcast
overcome	overcame	overcome
overdo	overdid	overdone
overdraw	overdrew	overdrawn
overeat	overate	overeaten
overhang	overhung	overhung
overhear	overheard	overheard

verb	past tense	past participle
overlay	overlaid	overlaid
overload	overloaded	overloaded
overpay	overpaid	overpaid
override	overrode	overridden
overrun	overran	overrun
oversee	oversaw	overseen
oversell	oversold	oversold
overshoot	overshot	overshot
oversleep	overslept	overslept
overtake	overtook	overtaken
overthrow	overthrew	overthrown
partake	partook	partaken
pay	paid	paid
plead	pleaded, (*esp. AmE*) pled	pleaded, (*esp. AmE*) pled
pre-set	pre-set	pre-set
proofread	proofread	proofread
prove	proved	proved (*also* proven *AmE*)
put	put	put
read	read	read
rebind	rebound	rebound
rebuild	rebuilt	rebuilt
recast	recast	recast
redo	redid	redone
relay	relaid	relaid
remake	remade	remade
rend	rent	rent
repay	repaid	repaid
rerun	reran	rerun
resell	resold	resold
reset	reset	reset
resit	resat	resat
retell	retold	retold
rethink	rethought	rethought
rewind	rewound	rewound
rewrite	rewrote	rewritten
rid	rid, ridded	rid, ridded
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw	sawed	sawn, sawed
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew	sewed	sewn, sewed
shake	shook	shaken
shave	shaved	shaved
shear	sheared	shorn, sheared
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone, shined	shone, shined
shit	shitted, shat	shitted, shat
shoe	shod	shod
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown, showed
shrink	shrank, shrunk	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank, sunk	sunk
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
slit	slit	slit
smell	(*esp. BrE*) smelt, (*esp. AmE*) smelled	(*esp. BrE*) smelt, (*esp. AmE*) smelled
smite	smote	smitten

verb	past tense	past participle
sneak	sneaked (*also* snuck *AmE*)	sneaked (*also* snuck *AmE*)
sow	sowed	sown, sowed
speak	spoke	spoken
speed	sped, speeded	sped, speeded
spell	(*esp. BrE*) spelt, (*esp. AmE*) spelled	(*esp. BrE*) spelt, (*esp. AmE*) spelled
spill	(*esp. BrE*) spilt, (*esp. AmE*) spilled	(*esp. BrE*) spilt, (*esp. AmE*) spilled
spin	spun, span	spun
spit	spat (*also* spit *AmE*)	spat (*also* spit *AmE*)
split	split	split
spoil	spoiled, spoilt	spoiled, spoilt
spoon-feed	spoon-fed	spoon-fed
spotlight	spotlighted, spotlit	spotlighted, spotlit
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang (*also* sprung *AmE*)	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank, stunk	stunk
strew	strewed	strewn, strewed
stride	strode	stridden
strike	struck	struck
string	strung	strung
strive	strove, strived	striven, strived
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swell	swelled	swollen, swelled
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
thrive	thrived, throve	thrived
throw	threw	thrown
thrust	thrust	thrust
tread	trod	trodden, trod
unbend	unbent	unbent
unbind	unbound	unbound
undergo	underwent	undergone
underlie	underlay	underlaid
undersell	undersold	undersold
understand	understood	understood
undertake	undertook	undertaken
underwrite	underwrote	underwritten
undo	undid	undone
unwind	unwound	unwound
uphold	upheld	upheld
upset	upset	upset
wake	woke, waked	woken, waked
waylay	waylaid	waylaid
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove	woven
wed	wedded, wed	wedded, wed
weep	wept	wept
wet	wetted, wet	wetted, wet
win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
withdraw	withdrew	withdrawn
withhold	withheld	withheld
withstand	withstood	withstood
wreak	wreaked, wrought	wreaked, wrought
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written